

## Suicides soar as psychiatrists strike in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The number of suicides in Israel has doubled during a two-month strike by state psychiatrists, a committee for the strikers said Monday. A total of 60 people took their own lives in May and June, compared to just 15 in April, said Hana Sturm, a spokeswoman for the strikers. She said a further seven people had committed suicide in the first week of July, and that the number of mental patients requiring physical restraint to prevent violence had risen by 80 per cent in May and June compared with the previous two months. Ms. Sturm said the quantity of medication consumed, especially tranquillisers, had also risen by 40 per cent during the strike. The health ministry said it was carrying out research to look at the impact of the strike on the health of mental patients. State psychiatrists are demanding a substantial salary increase.

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## Arafat heads to London for Blair meeting

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat left here Monday for London for his first meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, one of his aides said. Mr. Arafat was to meet Mr. Blair and British Foreign Minister Robin Cook Monday evening for talks on the peace process with Israel. Nabil Abu Rudeina said. The head of the Palestinian National Authority will also visit Austria to meet officials there, Mr. Abu Rudeina told Agence France Presse. "The Palestinians rely greatly on European action to save the peace process," he added. Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have been on hold for four months in a crisis over Israel's building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

## Military hotel hit in rocket attack in Turkey

ISTANBUL (AP) — A rocket was fired at a downtown military hotel Monday, injuring one person. An anonymous caller to newspapers and news agencies, claimed responsibility on behalf of the left-wing Revolutionary People's Salvation Party-Front, the Anatolia News Agency said. The group is responsible for several killings and bombings. The attack caused minor damage on the wall of the 13th floor and shattered some windows, according to Anatolian.

## Secret oriental fish protecting Israel's water

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has imported top-secret fish from the Far East to detect any possible contamination of the country's water supply, the Israeli national water company Mekorot revealed Monday. The 20-centimetre fishes, which the company insisted had to remain anonymous, give off a detectable electric charge as soon they sense the presence of any poisons in the water. Mekorot chairman, Amos Epstein, said he could not reveal the identity of the fish for "security reasons." "For security reasons I very much regret that the use of these fish has been made public," he said, refusing to comment further.

## Netanyahu appoints his adviser as U.N. ambassador

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel Monday appointed Dore Gold, a close adviser of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as its ambassador to the U.N., officials said. The appointment of Mr. Gold comes on the eve of a vote in the U.N. General Assembly in New York calling for economic sanctions against Israel because of its settlement policy. Mr. Gold replaces Gad Yacobi who left the job 15 months ago, and he is expected to fly to New York late Monday to be present during the debate. His nomination to the post had been mooted many months ago, but the appointment was held up by a simmering row between Mr. Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy, who was upset at being excluded from a range of foreign policy decisions and appointments.



Palestinian policemen lined up at the center of Hebron city in the West Bank Monday. Around 200 Palestinian police deployed in the center of Hebron after a late night meeting with Israeli troops aimed at quelling more than a month of rioting (AFP photo)

## Palestinian police move to cool Hebron clashes; stores reopen

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinian police moved to dampen five weeks of violent protests in Hebron Monday by deploying in force around the city's riot-torn centre for the first time since the clashes erupted.

Around 200 uniformed police gathered on the dividing line between the Palestinian and Israeli-controlled zones of the West Bank city, where clashes have injured some 300 people in the past five weeks, witnesses said.

In return, the Israeli army allowed Arab market stalls in areas under its control to remain open for the first time in five days.

The measures, which brought calm to the streets of Hebron early Monday, followed a late-night meeting between the commander of the Israeli garrison and senior Palestinian police officers, officials from both sides said.

They also came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Palestinians Sunday to rein in violent anti-Israeli protests across the West Bank or pay a heavy price.

Colonel Sharif Abu Meailaq, head of security forces in Hebron, said the police deployment was to counter the "Israeli conspiracy" of the punitive blockade and security measures clamped on the West Bank city 10 days ago.

"We want the Palestinians to feel they are secure and to know that the [Palestinian] Authority is in control," he told Agence France Presse.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said the army "could lift other restrictive measures" currently affecting the movement of the city's 120,000 Arab population if the area remained calm.

"The Palestinian (National) Authority seems to want to show that it has the situation under control, given the risk there is of an explosion," Palestinian political commentator Ghassan Khatib told AFP.

"The frustration of the population is growing day by day because of the deadlock in the peace process and there is a very real risk of a loss of control," he added.

(Continued on page 2)

## PNA says progress made with Israel on Gaza airport

GAZA (R) — Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) have agreed on takeoff and landing procedures and a name for an airport in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian negotiator said Monday.

Fayez Zidan, head of the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority, said after talks Sunday with Israeli negotiator Shaul Mofaz that security and customs issues still needed to be resolved.

"The Israeli side promised to present written proposals before the end of the week," he told Reuters.

Noting that "some progress" had been made, Mr. Zidan said: "We consecrated the name 'Gaza International Airport' and also agreed on procedures for takeoffs and landings."

He said Israel for the first time presented a position paper on aviation issues, agreeing to let Palestinians import equipment for the airport from Spain and Germany, except for radar whose

purchase is still under negotiation.

"We disagreed on other points, such as who is going to sign aviation agreements with other countries," Mr. Zidan said.

The meeting followed talks last week between Israeli Defence Chief Yitzhak Mordechai and Palestinian Cabinet Minister Nabil Shaath on opening the airport, a Gaza sea port and a corridor between the Strip and the West Bank.

Mr. Shaath said progress on the three confidence-building measures could help revive formal peace talks suspended since Israel began building a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem in March.

Opening of the air and sea ports and the Gaza-West Bank "safe passage" was agreed under the Israel-PLO interim peace accords signed since 1993.

Under the deals, Israel has overall control of Gaza and West Bank border crossings.

## Iraq scraps trade mission to Lebanon after ban of athletes

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday called off its first trade mission to Lebanon since 1990 in retaliation for a ban which has kept Iraqi athletes out of the Arab Games in Beirut.

The commerce ministry, quoted by the official news agency INA, said "the visit of the commercial and industrial delegation scheduled for August has been postponed without a new date fixed."

The visit starting on August 19 was expected to mark a revival of trade between the two Arab states, with plans afoot for Iraq to import food and medicine while exporting oil to Lebanon.

But the Lebanese government, under pressure from

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, banned Iraqi athletes from the Games which started in Beirut Saturday despite an Arab League invitation for Iraq to take part.

Lebanon, which cut diplomatic relations in 1994 after an Iraqi dissident was assassinated in Beirut, has been eager to reactivate commerce with Iraq. It sent two trade delegations to Baghdad in three months.

The trade with sanctions-hit Iraq would fall under the U.N. oil-for-food accord which allows Baghdad to export \$2 billion worth of crude every six months to finance imports of humanitarian supplies.

The U.N. embargo against Iraq has been in force since its troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Iraq accounted for 20 per cent of Lebanon's exports before the invasion, while Kuwait and Saudi Arabia which oppose Baghdad's return to the Arab fold are major aid donors to Beirut. Baghdad has accused Beirut of selling off its independence in decision-making to the two oil-rich Gulf monarchies by refusing to grant visas to Iraqi athletes.

On Monday, the official Baghdad press attacked Lebanon for the third straight day.

Kuwait threatened to boycott the Games if Iraq took part. The emirate contributed \$6 million and Saudi Arabia \$20 million for the reconstruction of

(Continued on page 2)

## Lebanese families of detainees taken by Israel stage protests

TYRE (AFP) — The families of some 200 Lebanese detainees without charge or trial by Israel staged Monday symbolic sit-ins across the country to mark the annual "day of the Lebanese prisoner."

Some 50 people, mostly women and children, carried pictures of their detained relatives and stood for an hour in front of the United Nations base in the southern port city of Tyre.

They handed over to U.N. officers a memorandum addressed to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, calling on "the U.N., the Arab League and other regional organisations to exert pressures on Israel to release the detainees."

"Their detention is a scandalous violation of all international laws and agreements," the memorandum said.

"The Lebanese detainees are suffering from miserable health conditions. They are threatened by death if they are not released," it said.

A number of other similar sit-ins were held by families of detainees in Beirut and the cities of Tripoli, Baalbek and Sidon.

About 150 Lebanese are held in a prison manned by Israel's allied South Lebanon Army militia in the village of Khiyam in the Israeli-occupied border zone in south Lebanon. Fifty-two others are detained in jails inside Israel.

On Thursday, the London-based Amnesty International rights group denounced cases of torture in the jails and said the detention of prisoners without charge or trial was like the "treatment of hostages by terrorist kidnappers."

"Those captured and held in Israel and south Lebanon are being held as hostages by the state of Israel to be used as a bargaining chip with Islamist militia groups," said a spokesman for the group.

Israel's deputy minister for defence, Ori Orr, had told amnesty that the release of these prisoners was conditional on the freeing or accounting for Israeli soldiers missing in action in Lebanon, he said.

## Algerian rebels kill 44, kidnap 21 girls — papers

PARIS (R) — Suspected militants killed at least 44 villagers in attacks on isolated Algerian communities during the weekend and kidnapped 21 girls from one village, Algerian newspapers said Monday.

Al Watan daily, well-informed on security matters, said around 20 rebels attacked Fetha village, near Ksar Al Boukhari, southwest of Algiers, over Saturday-Sunday night.

They killed 33 members of five families, including 14 women and four adolescents, the paper said.

"This attack was apparently led by a terrorist group to take revenge on a dissident (rebel) faction," the paper said.

It added: "The day before the attack, the body of a peasant was found. He had been kidnapped, tortured and decapitated in Ksar Al Boukhari area."

Algeria's main Arabic language newspaper Al Khabar said the rebels used knives or axes to cut the throats or stab to death the villagers.

The rebels dragged off with them 21 young girls from the village, it said.

Scores of girls, including teenagers as young as 13, have been kidnapped by Islamist rebels to serve the men as "temporary brides" in the bush.

## Market bomb kills 21

ALGIERS (AP) — A bomb exploded Monday in a market just outside Algiers, killing up to 21 people and injuring 40 others, the government said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bomb attack in the market at Baraki, on the eastern outskirts of the capital. Such bloodshed is usually blamed on Muslim insurgents. Ambulances rushed to the scene of the semi-covered market, packed with people two days before celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed. The government, which only occasionally acknowledges attacks, issued a brief statement providing the toll from the blast.

Al Watan said the assailants moved into Fetha village around 7 p.m. Saturday and took a meal before suddenly moving to attack the five families.

Al Khabar said the attackers encircled the headquarters of the communal guard, clashing with them and preventing them from coming out while they carried out the attack.

Many villages have communal guards or vigilante groups, known as Patriots, set up to try to deter rebel attacks.

Al Khabar said seven more people were killed Saturday night in a nearby village, Douar Aziz, and four more in Douar Barague. All the communities lie in Ksar Al Boukhari area, some 100 kilometres southwest of Algiers.

It was not clear if the deaths of the seven from Douar Aziz were the same as the seven reported killed by Al Watan.

The French language newspaper said seven bodies had been found in Taza forest in the same area and that the villagers had been killed at a fake road block mounted by

"terrorists."

Al Khabar said that another seven people had been killed by "terrorists" in the same area four days ago.

There was no official confirmation of the reports but foreign diplomats and security experts say the fact the heavily controlled newspapers carry them without apparent sanction, is seen as tacit confirmation.

Violence has shaken Algeria for nearly six years, erupting after the authorities in January 1992 cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a huge lead.

About 60,000 people have since been killed.

Last June 5, Algeria held fresh general elections which the authorities hoped would be a major step to ending the violence.

Algerian newspapers since then have reported nearly 400 people being killed, and one member of parliament told the assembly last week that 1,000 people had died in the period from the ballot.

## Medpartenariat finishes; expectations not fully met

by Ghathia Alul and Amy Henderson  
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Medpartenariat Jordan '97 ended on a subdued note Monday, with local participants speaking reservedly on the event's success.

Although it may not have yielded the immediate results participants had expected, representatives from local and foreign companies said the affair did result in several preliminary agreements for future joint venture and export projects.

"You can't sign agreements in such a limited time," said a representative of the Danish Jordanian Dairy Company. The dairy company discussed signing technical agreements with a French company to improve their line of production in Jordan, and the representative said that the company was also hoping to sign export deals with Turkey and Eastern European countries.

Medpartenariat — a two-day event hosted and organised by Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) in cooperation with the EU — sought to initiate contacts and partnership ventures

## Hadidi says conference yielded positive results

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Director General Farooq Hadidi Monday said the Medpartenariat conference in Amman yielded positive results and provided all participants with export and investment opportunities. He said that most of the meetings held between Jordanian and foreign companies were successful, adding that some deals were initiated with European companies for future trading and industrial projects. Mr. Hadidi said that these future deals will place Jordan as a gate to neighbouring countries and facilitate the transfer of technology in industrial, trading and investment fields. He rejected reports that most of the European companies were looking at Jordan as a market for their products, and said that these companies were seeking partners who can produce their trademarks under licence.

between 550 Jordanian and European companies.

Local businessmen said they had hoped to see more concrete results such as the establishment of joint venture projects, but they stopped short of expressing total disappointment with the event.

"Many people were hoping to enter into export arrangements and under licence manufacturing joint ventures," said Hani Huneidi of the National Ammonia and Chemical Industries. "We came close to signing a couple of good deals. It was promising and I would say ninety per cent successful for us."

"You cannot 'do business' at the Medpartenariat,"

said Anwar Obeidat, secretary of the Jordan-Europe Business Association (JEBBA). "But I believe that at least thirty per cent of participating companies reached some kind of agreement with foreign companies."

Mr. Obeidat, who finalised two deals to represent foreign companies in Jordan, said that most deals that were actually concluded during the Medpartenariat were similar.

Other company representatives confirmed Mr. Obeidat's belief. "We were looking for underlicensing manufacturing partners,"

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## Gulf oil spill leaves Sharjah with no water for two days

SHARJAH (AFP) — Water supplies began to flow back into a United Arab Emirates (UAE) city Monday after a disruption of two days because of an oil spill near its main desalination plant, officials said.

"There is no pollution at the desalination plant and the surrounding waters. The spill is breaking up and evaporating," said Ahmad Najjar, senior engineer at Sharjah's electricity and water authority.

"We stopped water supplies from the city as a protective measure. But we are now gradually resuming supplies and all the emirate will have water back by the end of the day," he told AFP.

Officials said a barge overloaded with Iranian diesel oil spilt some 2,500 tonnes Friday in rough seas near Al Liyya desalination plant, which supplies Sharjah with more than half its drinking water needs.

The barge was towed out to sea Sunday and officials said an investigation was launched.





ARAFAT IN LONDON: Palestinian National Authority President Yasser Arafat was met Monday by an honour guard from the Royal Air Force upon his arrival at Heathrow airport outside London. President Arafat is due to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process with British Prime Minister Tony Blair (AFP photo)

## Truce panel to meet over complaint after Lebanese civilian's death

BEIRUT (AFP) — The International Truce Monitoring Committee is due to meet this week to hear a Lebanese complaint over the death of a civilian in an Israeli shelling, a U.N. official said Monday.

"Israel's bombardment of Lebanese civilians is a violation of the April accord. Killing innocent civilians is unacceptable," said Stanislaw Wozniak, head of the U.N. Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

"I understand that armed forces engage in clashes, but civilians should not be targeted. Concerning this issue, Israel is violating the April accord," the

Polish general said.

Under the April 1996 ceasefire agreement, civilians are to be spared from fighting and attacks must not be launched from civilian residential areas.

The accord put an end to Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" offensive against guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in Lebanon last year that left 175 people, mostly civilians, dead.

Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel from south Lebanon.

The truce panel — made up of Lebanon, Israel, Syria, France and the United States

— is scheduled to meet Wednesday, the 13th meeting this year, at U.N. headquarters in the border town of Naqoura.

Lebanon filed a complaint Saturday with the committee over an Israeli bombardment on southern Lebanon that killed a 70-year-old Lebanese civilian. Israel expressed regret over the death.

Gen. Wozniak said he had lodged a "severe protest" with Israel for its repeated shelling of civilian areas, mainly after the injury of seven civilians, including a seven-year-old boy who lost an eye, on June 6.

## Bahraini opposition says 17 Shiites arrested

LONDON (R) — An exiled Bahraini opposition group said on Monday 17 Shiite Muslims, including children, had been arrested in connection with political unrest in the Gulf Arab state.

The Bahrain Freedom Movement said in a statement that five people aged under 16 years were among the detainees who were held in two Shiite areas.

Ten people were held in the small island of Sitra, linked with the capital Manama by a three kilometres causeway, and seven were arrested in Al Qurayya village, it said. The claim could not be immediately confirmed.

Bahrain, the Gulf's main financial and banking centre, said last week it had arrested four people after a deadly arson attack on a cold store in Sitra in which two Bangladeshi workers died.

The Bahrain Freedom Movement said police had also detained, beat and later freed a 13-year-old boy, Sayyed Hassan Sayyed Alawi. It gave no further details.

Members of the island's majority Shiite community have waged sporadic protests, arson attacks and bombings since December 1994 to press for political and economic reforms by the Sunni-led government.

# Iran vows to defend Lebanon and Palestinians against Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Monday that his country would defend Lebanon and the Palestinians against Israeli aggression, during a visit here by a Lebanese economic delegation.

"Iran will defend the rights of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the aggressors," Mr. Rafsanjani said on state radio.

"It is the duty of Islamic countries to help solve the problems of countries that fight against Israel... and Iran is ready to act again in this direction," he added.

Iran supports with money and weapons Hizbollah guer-

rillas fighting Israel's occupation of a self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon aimed at protecting its northern border from attack.

A Lebanese economic delegation arrived here Saturday in the first such visit since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, which Mr. Rafsanjani said had helped open a "new phase" in Iranian-Lebanese relations.

The delegation, led by Lebanese Economy Minister Yassine Jaber, participated in a joint economic meeting.

Members of the economic delegation included Lebanese senior Finance Secretary Fuad Saniora and Central Bank Governor Ryad

Salame.

During their week-long visit, the delegates held talks with housing ministry and other Iranian officials.

Several members of the Lebanese government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri have paid working visits to Iran and Lebanese Deputy Prime Minister Michel Murr represented Lebanon here at the 1996 inauguration of the "new silk road."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the beginning of May that Mr. Hariri is expected to pay an official visit to Iran in a few months.

Officials said the visit would take place during the

swearing in of Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, scheduled for August.

There have been occasional tensions in Iranian-Lebanese relations.

In July 1996, President Elias Hrawi accused Iran of interfering in internal Lebanese affairs, and Mr. Hariri criticised Iran's financial assistance to its supporters in Lebanon without going through official Lebanese channels.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz said he hoped Mr. Khatami's election, in May, would allow "relations between Lebanon and Iran to develop."

## Israelis visiting Egypt call for united peace front

CAIRO (AFP) — Members of Israeli group Peace Now, which favours the creation of a Palestinian state, called Monday for a united front to restart the peace process, after talks here with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

"We need solidarity between the peace forces in Israel and those abroad in favour of a resumption of the negotiations and an end to the current peace-process crisis," Peace Now member and Reserve General Mordechai Bar-On told reporters.

The delegation informed Mr. Musa of the movement's role in promoting the peace process and listened to his views on the obstacles hampering it, he

added.

"I think that dialogue with the Israeli Peace Now movement and all who call for a just peace, based on the principle of trading land for peace, is important and useful," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Bar-On said he was pessimistic about "the chances of a breakthrough in the peace process with the current [Israeli] government's policy."

He said his movement was seeking to "mobilise Israeli public opinion to bring about elections for a new government that would work for peace."

"We are convinced that peace must prevail between the peoples of the region in a way that isn't limited to governments," he said.

## Another prominent Turkish deputy quits Ciller's party

ANKARA (AP) — Former Deputy Premier Tansu Ciller suffered another blow when a prominent member of her centre-right party Monday joined a wave of resignations to protest her policies.

The resignation of retired General Dogan Gures, a former military chief of staff, left True Path with 97 seats in the 550-member parliament.

Some 40 True Path deputies quit their party after Mrs. Ciller made an alliance with an Islamist party in a coalition government a year ago.

The Islamist-led government resigned last month

under pressure from the military because of its Islamisation policies in this secular country.

But the resignations speeded up when Mrs. Ciller refused to ally with pro-secular parties and kept her party in the Islamist bloc even after the government's resignation.

Several other deputies resigned recently when she allowed her aides to publicly attack the military with allegations that the generals were engaged in a plot to stage a coup.

The pro-secular military is a highly respected institution in this country.

## PNA curbs clashes in Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to Hebron, violence has also flared in recent days in the West Bank cities of Ramallah and Bethlehem.

The return of calm also comes on the eve of a vote in the U.N. General Assembly called under emergency legislation by the Arab bloc to demand economic sanctions against Israel because of its settlement policy.

Late Sunday members of the 400-strong militant Jewish settler community living in Hebron blocked a road in the city's buffer zone between the two zones of the city after their

houses were targeted by petrol bombs.

The settlers threw stones at Palestinian police vehicles and there were several scuffles before the settlers returned to their heavily-guarded enclave, said witnesses.

Since early June, Palestinian youths have been taking to the narrow streets of Hebron around the city's old market almost daily and hurling petrol bombs, rocks and home-made explosives at Israeli soldiers.

The Israeli army has responded with volleys of rubber and plastic-coated metal bullets, injuring eight people, including four journalists, in

the latest round of unrest Sunday.

Under a January accord, 80 per cent of Hebron is controlled by the Palestinian municipal authorities while the remaining 20 per cent, where the 400 settlers and 10,000 Arabs live, remains under Israeli military control.

The Palestinians walked out of peace talks in mid-March after Israel started construction of a controversial Jewish settlement on the edge of historically Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

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## Israel's national phone company hit by strike over privatisation

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Employees at Israel's national telephone company Bezeq went on strike Monday over the privatisation of part of the company's capital, the trade union organisation Histadrut said.

The move followed official confirmation that U.S. investment bank Merrill Lynch had secretly agreed to buy a 12.5 per cent stake in Bezeq for \$250 million, it said.

The company's employees called the strike because they were upset at not being consulted or informed about the deal.

"The government has violated its commitment that the employees of Bezeq would receive a share of the privatised capital," said Amir Peretz, the secretary general of Histadrut.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat told Israel radio that Bezeq employees would receive "compensation" for the deal.

Moshe Leon, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economic adviser, hailed the Merrill Lynch deal as a positive step.

"International investors have shown that they have confidence in the economic policies of the government," he said.

Bezeq employs 9,000 people and has a turnover of \$2.3 billion.

British company Cable and Wireless holds 10 per cent of the company, and the remaining 23 per cent that has been sold off is held by small investors on the Tel Aviv stock market.

## 2 Pakistani drug traffickers beheaded in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Two Pakistani men convicted of smuggling heroin were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Monday, raising to 65 the number of people executed this year in the kingdom. Mohammed Kareem Abdul Hakeem and Omar Khan Inam Khan were found guilty of smuggling an undisclosed quantity of the drug into Saudi Arabia, an Interior Ministry statement said. They were executed in the city of Medina, it said. Saudi Arabia has executed 29 drug smugglers this year, 24 of them since May. Saudi Arabia's Islamic courts impose the death penalty for rape, murder, drug trafficking and armed robbery.

## Iraq cancels trade mission to Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Beirut's sports city, venue of the two-week sporting event, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid tried in vain last week to persuade Lebanon to allow the Iraqi athletes to contest the Games for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war which liberated Kuwait.

Almost 100 Iraqi athletes held a two-day protest at the Syrian-Lebanese border until the opening of the Games.

Beirut followed the example of Damascus, which controls Lebanon, in trying to restore trade links with Iraq. The Syrian-Iraqi border was opened to businessmen in early June after a 15-year closure.

Damascus and Baghdad have signed contracts for the first time since 1980, and Syria has proposed that its Mediterranean ports be used as a transit point for goods bound for Iraq.

U.N. experts have been in Baghdad to study the proposals to import goods via Syria, giving Iraq a fourth outlet after Jordan, Turkey and its Gulf port of Umm Qasr.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
15:35 French Programmes  
16:00 Super Sport Follie  
16:30 Dog House  
17:00 Square One TV  
17:15 Album Show  
18:10 French Programmes  
19:00 News in French  
19:30 News Headline  
19:35 Coach  
20:00 Tili  
20:30 Encounter  
21:10 Dr. Nature of Things  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 West Beach  
23:15 Drug Wars

## PRAYER TIMES

04:03 Fajr  
05:35 Sunrise/Duha  
12:41 Dhulh  
16:22 Asr  
19:48 Maghrib  
21:20 Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 510740  
Assenblich of God Church  
Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel.  
661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 5516245  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811245  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Fine summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dropping further becoming 3-4 degrees centigrade below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be hot and occasional dusty, winds northerly moderate to active, and sea calm.

Amman ..... (19/29)  
Aqaba ..... 26/39  
Deserts ..... 16/34  
Jordan Valley ..... 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 31, Aqaba 42 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Masri ..... 675485  
Dr. Khalid Jbali ..... 740740  
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab ..... 758848  
Dr. Yousef Rashid ..... 875792  
Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644445  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairoh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir ..... 276852  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (---)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halseh ..... 982799  
Khalifah pharmacy ..... 885417

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Dept ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192 ..... 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 0853200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..... 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity ..... 642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 607071

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272775  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100

## DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:40 ..... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
13:10 ..... Paris (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:05 ..... London (RJ)  
14:05 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:40 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:25 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)  
02:50 ..... Madrid (RJ)

## ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:05 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
08:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ)  
10:40 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)  
17:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:30 ..... London (RJ)  
17:40 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)  
17:40 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)  
01:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)

## Other Flights

09:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:30 ..... Dubai (RJ)  
16:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
18:05 ..... Kiev (6U)  
21:30 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:50 ..... Aden (IY)  
23:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
23:45 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
01:25 ..... Jakarta (KL)  
03:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
04:25 ..... London (BA)

## Other Flights

04:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
10:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
17:40 ..... Istanbul (TK)  
19:05 ..... Kiev (6U)  
20:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
22:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:50 ..... Aden (IY)  
01:55 ..... Bucharest (GA)  
02:25 ..... London (GA)  
02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
04:00 ..... Athens (AA)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)

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WHAT'S GO  
ON

FILM

"The Minister" at the British Coun  
Apn.

LECTURE

"The Cultural History Project" b  
Jordan Centre of Oriental Research (T

EXHIBITIONS

by of Bani Hamida hand-made  
by Iraqi artists Ali Al Najjar ar  
Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel

Paints by Salam Kan'an entitled "F  
of the Jordan River Designs"  
will July 15 (Tel. 613081).

an exhibition entitled "Jerusalem  
at the Modern Education

exhibition by Jan Kassay, a  
Jabal Weibdeh, until July 29.  
Department, Ras Al 'Ain, until

the jewelry exhibition" at the Jo  
of Noor Al Hussein Foundatio  
Arab Artists Exhibition  
and artists, at Darat Al Fuman, 29



## Queen Noor meets with UNICEF representative

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday met with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Area Representative Dorrit Alopaeus-Stahl to discuss the impact of the upcoming U.N. reforms on UNICEF, a Royal Court statement said.

According to Ms. Stahl, while UNICEF welcomes the opportunity to improve the U.N. system, the reforms must ensure that the interests of children are fully met and that UNICEF's ability to act and mobilise funds and

resources in children's best interest is strengthened and reinforced.

Ms. Stahl stated that UNICEF has benefited greatly from Queen Noor's direct support and continued cooperation, which has resulted in major achievements for both the children of Jordan and those of the Arab World.

Queen Noor, who is the Chair of the National Task Force for Children, emphasised her support for the principle of U.N. reforms and expressed her hope that they will maintain

UNICEF's role in supporting national efforts to safeguard children's well-being as well as its advocacy efforts at the highest levels on issues related to child welfare.

The Queen also noted the importance of UNICEF's active voice in identifying and highlighting crisis situations where children's interests or rights are threatened and where their urgent needs are inadequately addressed.

Advisor to the Queen In'am Mufti attended the meeting.



Mazen Darwazah Monday states that it is incumbent on the government to support and encourage research designed to promote the pharmaceutical industry (Petra photo)

## 'Pharmaceutical industry regulations must be modernised, upgraded'

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of a leading Jordanian pharmaceutical firm, Al Hikma, Monday called on the government to modernise and upgrade regulations concerning the pharmaceutical industry in Jordan in such a way that the country might attract foreign investment in the field of medicament production.

Addressing a press conference, Mazen Darwazah stated that it is incumbent on the government to support and encourage research designed to promote the pharmaceutical industry as well as offer tax exemptions and create an opportune investment climate.

Jordan's application of the partnership agreement with the European Union (EU), and the Kingdom's expected entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO), will adversely affect the national pharmaceutical industry as well as

its marketing of medicines abroad unless the government backs the pharmaceutical sector through legislation, he maintained.

This legislation must encourage research to cater to requirements as outlined in international agreements, Mr. Darwazah asserted.

WTO entry stipulates a ban on the production of new types of medicine in Jordan after the year 2001, except under a new licensing programme, he explained.

Mr. Darwazah described this situation as requiring further coordination between the government and private sector to initiate research in developing the pharmaceutical industry.

Regarding Al Hikma, Mr. Darwazah said that the company is developing an individual process to cater to the requirements of the government's Companies Law.

The pharmaceutical industry is entering a new

phase in Jordan, he added.

Al Hikma has concluded a series of contracts with firms in Japan, Europe and North America for marketing equipment used in the manufacturing of medicine as well as the transfer of modern technology to Jordan, according to Mr. Darwazah.

Al Hikma sold \$32 million worth of medicine in the first six months of 1997 as compared to \$26 million for the same period of last year, he confirmed.

The firm is involved in several projects in Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and the United States, according to the director general.

Its investments in Jordan and abroad, over the past five years, total \$45 million, he added.

Al Hikma is registered as a pharmaceutical company in 32 nations and is finalising a contract for the marketing of its products in the United States, Mr. Darwazah concluded.

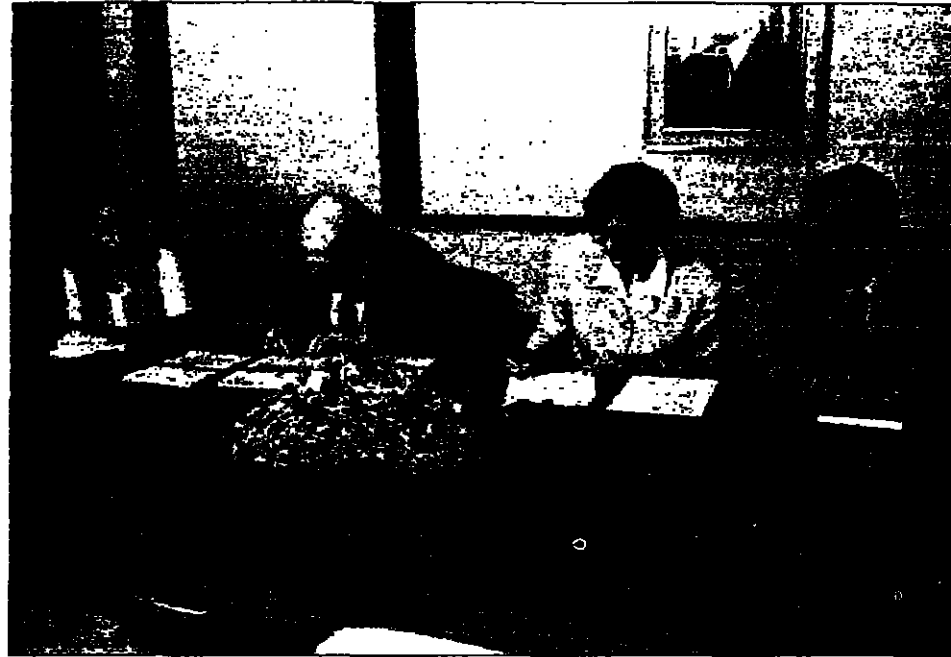
## Britain, Jordan sign memoranda of understanding

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Ambassador to Jordan Christopher Battiscombe and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf yesterday signed memoranda of understanding covering British aid for two projects in Jordan, according to a British Embassy statement.

The British Department for International Development (DFID) will allot a grant totalling £2 million for the projects, the statement said.

The first project, "Capacity Building of the Ministry of Social Development" aims to develop the ministry's role as a policy maker and coordinator of social sector activities.

Training workshops will be designed to meet the needs of ministry staff at central and governorate levels, according to the statement.



British Ambassador to Jordan Christopher Battiscombe and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf sign memoranda of understanding covering British aid for two projects in Jordan (Petra photo)

The second project, "Capacity Building of the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development" aims at

strengthening the development complex as a training centre of excel-

lence.

Throughout the duration of the project, staff from the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Training Centre and the Princess Basma Woman's Resource Centre will participate in a major training programme, the statement maintained.

Both projects aim at "institutional building" of the Ministry of Social Development and the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development as a first step towards a division of responsibilities between the government and the non-governmental sectors while promoting a culture of cooperation, it added.

The signing ceremony was attended by a visiting mission from the Western Asia Section at the Department for International Development.

## Importance of agricultural sector emphasised in training workshop

AMMAN (Petra) — Officials at the Ministry of Agriculture Monday began a training workshop at the Jordanian Banking Institute.

The workshop, organised by the Regional Union for Agricultural Credit in the Near East and North Africa, is focusing on agricultural credit and financing agricultural projects.

In an inaugural address to participants, Minister of Agriculture Mijhem Khreisha described agriculture as an essential sector of the economy.

"The Jordanian agricultural sector is one of the main sectors of our national economy and plays a pivotal role in developing the nation and improving living conditions," Mr. Khreisha asserted.

The government is taking serious steps to provide a suitable climate for attracting foreign investment therein, he added.

"We must be self-reliant through meeting our own agricultural needs and earning currency through the export of agricultural supplies in order to support the domestic economy," Mr. Khreisha declared.

Meanwhile, the minister announced that Jordan's 11 veterinary plants last year exported veterinary drugs worth JD 7.5 million and that these goods were marketed in nine nations abroad.

Two additional plants are to be opened soon, Mr. Khreisha confirmed.

Jordanian veterinary products have won global fame and are competing with similar products from developed countries, he stated.

The minister was addressing a ceremony held at Naour for the inauguration of a JD 3 million plant for the manufacture of veterinary drugs.

The plant is owned and operated by the Jordanian Dar Al Dawaa Pharmaceutical Company.

The veterinary manufacturing industry is not only a material investment, but rather an investment in science as well as a service to the nation, the minister stated.

As Jordan enters into partnership with the European Union and commits itself to the global economy, raising the quality of national products and applying internationally accepted specifications has become an obligatory practice, the minister stated.

He maintained that the Jordanian veterinary industry is a source of national pride and that the government will continue to extend all possible assistance.

The Ministry of Agriculture has completed preparations for the establishment of a quality-control laboratory for locally produced as well as imported veterinary drugs, Mr. Khreisha stated.

The minister also expressed concern over livestock wealth in Jordan and difficulties farmers have been facing.

Present economic difficulties, combined with water scarcity and a price hike in animal feed, have frustrated farmers, he stated.

Mr. Khreisha emphasised the importance of providing the best possible assistance to this sector which, he said, is responsible for 60 per cent of Jordanian agricultural production and which sustains 50,000 families in Jordan who raise cattle and sheep.

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently developing projects in the northern badia region to aid livestock farmers, he concluded.

## 150,000 families live at poverty line — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of Jordanian families living near the line of absolute poverty has been estimated at 150,000 which figure accounts for nearly 21 per cent of the total population, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser stated Monday.

Families living under the line of abject poverty are estimated at nine per cent of the population, he added.

At a seminar organised by the student council of the University of Jordan, Dr. Mamser maintained that the government is taking serious measures to deal with poverty and unemployment in Jordan.

In a seminar entitled "official policy regarding poverty and unemployment," the minister affirmed that the government is focusing on economic productivity, creating opportunities for comprehensive development and helping Jordanians secure steady income rather than keeping citizens dependent on financial assistance.

According to the minister, unemployment and poverty can be mitigated through programmes, development and income-generating projects however, he said, there must be a parallel change in attitudes among Jordanians as regards manual and other types of work, currently dominated by guest workers.

The government will continue to provide assistance to indigent families, estimated at 33,000, through the National Aid Fund and other institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development, he stated.

A total of JD 15 to JD 17 million in cash subsidies are allotted for this purpose each month, Dr. Mamser confirmed.

Additionally, the government will continue to prioritise employment for Jordanians by paying the wages of these workers from the state treasury for a limited period of time after which employers and workers can agree on terms for continued employment, he stated.

Jordanians can be easily trained to fill job posts which are currently taken by an estimated 350,000 non-Jordanian workers, Dr. Mamser affirmed.

The minister also pointed to measures taken by the government to help handicapped citizens. He stated that their number is estimated at 100,000 of whom 80 per cent currently benefit from government rehabilitation assistance.

## Jordan reaffirms opposition to Jewish settlements

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan has reiterated its total opposition to the Israeli resumption of Jewish settlement programmes in Arab East Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

Director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Tarshihi stated that these settlements pose serious danger to the Middle East peace process as well as blatant defiance of international legislation.

Mr. Tarshihi addressed his remarks to the 58th meeting of countries hosting Palestinian refugees, opened yesterday in Cairo, with the participation of Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The peace process has encountered its most serious challenge, over the past few months, due to Israeli government policies which constitute an outrageous defiance of Arab and Muslim sentiment as well as a flagrant violation of the basic principles of the peace process, he said.

This government also contravenes accords signed with the Palestinians and thereby has achieved a deadlock in the peace negotiations, Mr. Tarshihi added.

The present crisis, following the Israeli decision to intensify settlement programmes, is not only currently disrupting negotiations, but is also affecting final status negotiations covering the future of Jerusalem and Jewish settlement programmes.

The Israelis should have embarked on the final

status negotiations with the Palestinians last March, he said, however the deadlock and Israeli actions have created despair and frustration for all parties in the peace process.

The only hope for an end to the impasse is a unified Islamic-Arab stand, supported by the international community, to force Israel to comply with peace requirements.

Those European nations which issued the Amsterdam declaration, demanding that the Israelis recognise Palestinian rights and respect the peace accords, have provided new hope for concerted international efforts directed towards the success of the peace process, according to Mr. Tarshihi.

He also lauded recent meetings in the city of Denver in the United States attended by industrialised nations.

The Cairo meeting's agenda will counter Israeli defiance of the global community, its failure to redeploy forces in the occupied territories and its continued intransigence against the Palestinians, Mr. Tarshihi stated.

In reference to Jerusalem, he remarked that the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 252 in 1968 which described Israeli measures to alter the character of the Arab city as illegal, while the same council's 1980 resolution demanded an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

U.N. Resolution 194 provides for the return of the Palestinians to their homeland or compensation for

their loss of property, he added.

Jordan has been providing assistance to refugees who now reside in 13 camps in the Kingdom and has recently allocated JD 173 million as part of a social security package programme to improve services for these camps, Mr. Tarshihi affirmed.

These services include improvements to water supply, sewage, road maintenance and electricity networks over the next five years, he stated.

Jordan is spending approximately \$300 million annually on refugees living in the Kingdom, Mr. Tarshihi affirmed.

Annual budget deficits of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) have been adversely affecting social, educational and health services for the refugees, he lamented.

Difficulties and financial constraints facing UNRWA should prompt donor nations to contribute to the agency's operations in a substantial manner, Mr. Tarshihi asserted.

In a two-day meeting for donor nations, held in Amman last month, UNRWA Commissioner General Peter Hansen stated that the agency has a deficit of \$26 million.

According to Mr. Tarshihi, the Jordanian delegation to the meeting in Cairo will submit reports regarding Israeli plans to Judaize Jerusalem. Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the UNRWA budget deficit and Israeli human rights violations.

## Yemenis study Jordanian prison system

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of the Prisons Department in Yemen Colonel Mohammad Omar Bahshawan Monday affirmed that his current visit to Jordan will focus on an examination of Jordanian reformatory centres and prisons.

In a meeting with Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant General Nasouh Muhieddin, Mr. Bahshawan affirmed that the Yemeni government hopes to rehabilitate prison inmates to become contributing members of the community.

The Yemeni government is in the process of modernising methods regarding prison inmates and hopes to procure Jordan's assistance in this regard, he added.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Yemeni delegation visited Jweidah prison and was briefed on rehabilitation programmes therein.

The visiting officials studied the categorical system, based on both the inmates' ages and their respective crimes.

The delegation also investigated diverse services and recreational programmes as well as inmate training in trades.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\*"Yes Minister" at the British Council, Jabel Aman, at 6:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

\*"Tall Mahal Cultural History Project" by Sam Labadie at the American Centre of Oriental Research (Tel. 846-117) at 7:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\*Display of Beni-Hamida hand-made products at Beni-Hamida House, Jabel Aman, until July 31 (Tel. 556-998/7).

\*Works by Iraqi artists Ali Al-Najjar and Zia Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 553-798), until July 22.

\*Art works by Sahar Kan in exhibition "From Jerusalem to Nabulus" at the Jordan River Design Showroom, Jabel Aman, until July 15 (Tel. 613-081).

\*Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al-Zaghat at the Modern Educational School, Khalda, until July 31.

\*Photography exhibition by Jan Kasey, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 22.

\*Paintings by Ali Al-Ghoni at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al-Ain, until July 31.

\*Silver jewelry exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Nour Al-Husseini Foundation, until July 20.

\*Contemporary Arab Art Exhibition, featuring works of 69 Arab artists, at Dar Al-Fann, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 24.



## Youths attack N. Ireland police uncovering bomb

BELFAST (R) — Catholics youths threw petrol bombs and stones early Monday at police searching a housing estate where the ingredients for a huge home-made bomb, a favoured weapon of Irish Republic Army (IRA) guerrillas, were found Sunday.

Police said they did not know the intended target of the device, which was discovered one week after Northern Ireland descended into rioting by Catholics over Protestant parades.

"It was found in a densely populated area which underlines the complete disregard for people living in the area by the lunatics who are responsible," Superintendent Stewart Tosh told reporters at the housing estate in Londonderry where it was found.

Police mounted follow-up searches of the Creggan Estate, a stronghold of Catholic Irish nationalists, and came under a barrage of petrol bombs and stones from local youths.

Around 136 kilograms of the home-made explosives, a weapon which IRA guerrillas tend to use in fighting British rule in Northern Ireland, was found Sunday in three plastic bins in a coal shed at the back of a house.

Another two bags of explosives were discovered as police evacuated 50 houses and searched the area into the night.

"It was just one step away from being fully functional," said a police spokesman. "It was meant to be planted and it was meant to cause death."

Security forces also came under attack in Belfast when they tried to end clashes between Irish Catholic nationalists and pro-British Protestant loyalists who attacked each other for the second night.

The incidents underlined continuing tension in the wake of the Protestant Orange Order marching season and the problems facing negotiators at Northern Ireland peace talks which resume in Belfast Tuesday.

The resumed talks, which group pro-British Unionists and Irish nationalists, are expected to focus on so-called decommissioning, the surrender of guerrilla weapons used in a 28-year conflict which has killed 3,200.

The IRA, whose guerrilla campaign to unite Northern Ireland with nearby Ireland lies at the heart of the conflict, says it will not surrender its arsenal until a political settlement is reached.

The guerrillas' position was echoed Sunday by Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, which dashed hopes of a fresh IRA truce to match a concession by the Orange Order, which cancelled four marches offensive to Catholics.

Mr. Adams, responding to Britain's Northern Ireland sec-

retary, Mo Mowlam, said in a statement that the surrender of arms held by his guerrilla allies "still remains a major difficulty."

Mrs. Mowlam had appealed earlier Sunday for a new ceasefire by the IRA, a move which would win Sinn Fein a seat at peace talks within six weeks. She said: "Let the IRA/Sinn Fein make their decision, the ball is in their court."

But Protestant Unionists loyal to British rule dismissed hopes of a new IRA truce as "wishful thinking."

"The reality is that Sinn Fein/IRA are committed to violence in order to achieve objectives that no Democrat can support," said David Trimble, the head of Northern Ireland's biggest pro-British group, the Ulster Unionist Party. The province has a Protestant majority.

Mr. Trimble said the talks should proceed without Sinn Fein. The year-long negotiations have been dominated by laborious discussion of ground rules and procedure but are expected to get down to substantive issues in September after a summer recess.

Hopes of progress had risen after the Orange Order scrapped four parades over the weekend that would have been routed through Catholic areas and probably sparked rioting.

The marches, on a day when the Orange Order commemorates a 1690 Protestant victory over a Catholic king, were cancelled after the threat of mass counter-demonstrations by Catholics, who regard the parades as sectarian intimidation.

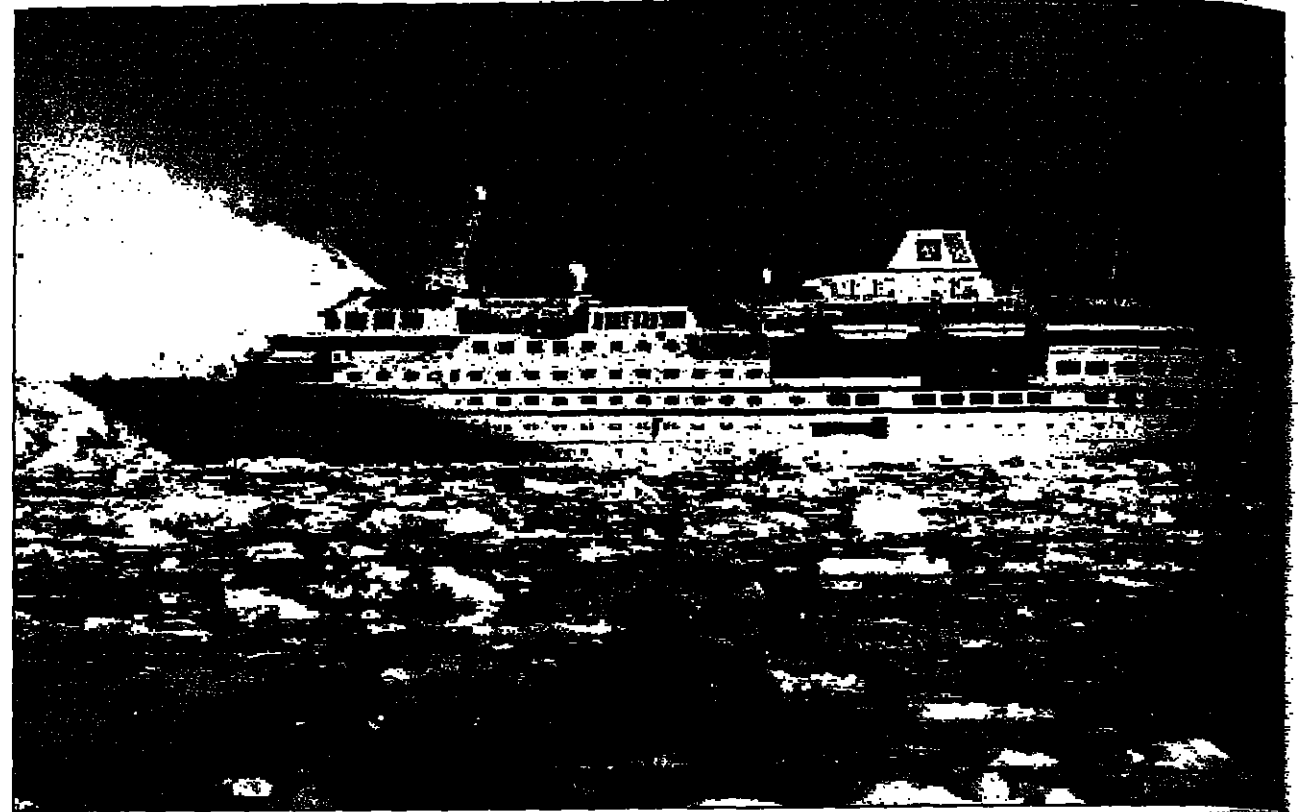
Meanwhile, the Irish Times reported Monday that London recently resumed contacts with Sinn Fein in efforts to pin down the terms of Sinn Fein's eventual participation in multi-party Northern Ireland peace talks.

The paper said it had learned the telephone contacts, in late June and early July, were instigated by Sinn Fein, and that their substance was confirmed by letter from a British official to Sinn Fein last Wednesday.

The Irish Times also said the Northern Ireland office confirmed Sinn Fein had written to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on June 20 and again on July 2, the first letter being overtaken by Mr. Blair's so-called "final offer" to Sinn Fein in the House of Commons on June 25.

In that statement, Mr. Blair confirmed a proposed timetable for Sinn Fein's entry into peace talks within six weeks following an IRA ceasefire, with paramilitary disarmament taking place in parallel with the talks and not as a prerequisite.

Sinn Fein reportedly had sought clarifications on the disarmament question.



The Bahamian-registered 'Hanseatic' cruise liner, shown in this 1994 file picture, ran aground in the fjord off north coast of the Arctic island of Spitzbergen. The ship, with 145 passengers on board and a crew of 115, aground Sunday in the Hinlopen Fjord but was in no imminent danger, according to reports (Reuters photo).

## Cruise ship aground off Arctic island of Spitzbergen

OSLO (R) — Norwegian coastguards said Monday the Bahamian-registered Hanseatic Cruise Liner had run aground in a fjord off the north coast of the Arctic island of Spitzbergen.

The ship, with 145 passengers on board and a crew of 115, ran aground Sunday in the Hinlopen Fjord but was in no imminent danger, said Arne Gansnoe, duty officer for the rescue centre

at Bodoe in northern Norway.

"There is no critical situation. The passengers and crew are staying on board. Another ship is alongside her and a couple of naval vessels are heading out there to pull her free. There should be no problem if the weather stays fine," Mr. Gansnoe told Reuters.

The Norwegian national news agency NTB said the

9,000 deadweight tonne vessel was owned by Hanseatic Tours, a subsidiary of Hamburg-based Hapag-Lloyd Cruiseshipping GMBH HPLG.H. The coastguard could not confirm this.

There was no immediate information on how the vessel had run aground.

A Swedish passenger ship, Origo, had unsuccessfully tried to pull the Hanseatic free and was waiting along-

side, the coastguard said. The first naval vessel was expected to reach the grounded ship at 1000 GMT Monday.

"The situation is under control. If it had been critical we would have started a rescue operation straight away," Mr. Gansnoe said.

NTB said the Finnish-built Hanseatic had run aground last August off the Canadian coast in the Arctic with 268 people on board.

## Row erupts over Australian demolition bungle

CANBERRA (R) — A political brawl erupted Monday over the bungled demolition of an Australian hospital in which a 12-year-old girl was killed.

Canberra regional Government Chief Kate Carnell accused the main building union of seeking political gain from Sunday's incident, when the implosion of the city's old hospital went wrong and spewed debris over thousands of spectators who turned out for what had been billed as a family event. At least nine people were injured.

"The bottom line here is something dreadful went wrong and we need to find out what that is, rather than find scapegoats at this stage," Mrs. Carnell said, even as lawyers warned of massive compensation claims.

"I feel dreadful, I feel dreadful for the family, I feel dreadful for all the people that were down there — I was there with my kids as well."

Australia's main building union, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), demanded Mrs. Carnell stand aside pending the outcome of an independent inquiry.

A union spokesman said the implosion was a reelection stunt by Mrs. Carnell.

The hospital was set on a lakeshore in the capital's crowded tourist area.

Mrs. Carnell has launched an independent inquiry, which will look at a range of issues including the awarding of the contract and the decision to demolish the building.

As the inquiry began Monday, Mrs. Carnell urged other state and territory governments to ban implosions until the inquiry handed down its findings.

Prime Minister John Howard offered a message of sympathy to the dead girl's family and all Canberrans.

"I would like to join many others in expressing my sympathy to the people of Canberra and particularly to the family of the little girl who lost her life in the tragic incident," he said.

"Not only is it a personal tragedy for the family of that little girl, but it's one of those unexpected and extraordinarily unsettling events where the peace of a Sunday afternoon ... is suddenly shattered in such a life-threatening way."

## Blast rocks hotel housing U.N. police in Serb-held Bosnia

BELGRADE (AFP) — An explosion rocked a hotel used by United Nations police and other Western officials in Bosnian Serb territory late Sunday, the Bosnian Serb News Agency reported.

The agency said there were no casualties, although some vehicles parked outside the Drina Hotel at Zvornik in the northeast were damaged by the blast at around 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT).

Police told AFP an explosive device was placed under a jeep belonging to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), damaging it and two other vehicles parked outside the hotel.

The hotel also housed members of the International Police Task Force in Bosnia, a U.N. body set up under the Dayton Peace Accords of December 1995.

The OSCE organised Bosnia's general elections last year and is organising local elections for later this year.

Its relations with officials in the Bosnian Serb capital Pale have been tense over the past weeks as hardliners there engage in a power struggle with moderates led by Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic.

Mrs. Plavsic has been the only Bosnian Serb leader advocating closer compliance with the Dayton Peace Accords and rapprochement with the international community.

Bosnia's feuding Serb leaders had been due to pursue reconciliation talks Sunday after the funeral. However, Mrs. Plavsic pulled out of a meeting with Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's collective presidency, a spokesman said, citing ill health.

The bomb blast also came on the same day that Bosnian Serbs buried a war crimes suspect shot dead by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops sent to arrest him.

Former Prijedor Police Chief Simo Drljaca was laid to rest with military honours in Banja Luka and hailed as a "patriot and fighter" at a funeral service transmitted live by Serb television.

Drljaca was shot dead Thursday when elite British special forces from the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia swooped on him and another war crimes suspect, Milan Kovacevic, the director of Prijedor Hospital.

Mr. Kovacevic was arrested without incident and sent to the Hague to face trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Drljaca was shot dead after he opened fire on the British troops.

The tribunal was scheduled Monday to pronounce its sentence on Bosnian Serb war criminal Dusan Tadic, following his conviction in May on 11 counts of torture and crimes against humanity over his role as a guard in three prison camps during the Bosnian conflict.

The prosecution has called for a life sentence, while his defence lawyers says he should serve a maximum of five years.

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Bosnia's feuding Serb leaders had been due to pursue reconciliation talks Sunday after the funeral. However, Mrs. Plavsic pulled out of a meeting with Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's collective presidency, a spokesman said, citing ill health.

The bomb blast also came on the same day that Bosnian Serbs buried a war crimes suspect shot dead by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops sent to arrest him.

Former Prijedor Police Chief Simo Drljaca was laid to rest with military honours in Banja Luka and hailed as a "patriot and fighter" at a funeral service transmitted live by Serb television.

Drljaca was shot dead Thursday when elite British special forces from the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia swooped on him and another war crimes suspect, Milan Kovacevic, the director of Prijedor Hospital.

Mr. Kovacevic was arrested without incident and sent to the Hague to face trial at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Drljaca was shot dead after he opened fire on the British troops.

The tribunal was scheduled Monday to pronounce its sentence on Bosnian Serb war criminal Dusan Tadic, following his conviction in May on 11 counts of torture and crimes against humanity over his role as a guard in three prison camps during the Bosnian conflict.

The prosecution has called for a life sentence, while his defence lawyers says he should serve a maximum of five years.

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## U.K. turns up heat on tobacco companies

LONDON (R) — Britain's new Labour government turned up the heat on the tobacco industry Monday, warning companies it could legislate to cut nicotine levels in cigarettes and improve the rights of non-smokers.

Tessa Jowell, minister for public health, said the government was particularly concerned about smoking among teenagers and would consider whether the age at which tobacco products could be brought should be raised to 18 from 16.

Ms. Jowell will attend a meeting on tobacco Monday at which she is expected to lay out government plans. Labour is due to publish a policy document later this year.

In an article in the Financial Times newspaper, she said Labour wanted to get to grips with the tobacco publicity machine.

"I want to change the balance of power in this area decisively towards the public interest, and to make the recruitment of new, young smokers as difficult as possible," she said.

The government would be looking at ways of encouraging people to give up smoking, which causes 120,000 premature deaths a year in Britain.

"We will need to look at the permitted levels of nicotine, so as to reduce the potency of the addiction. We will look at the role of public education, and the issue of passive smoking and the rights of non-smokers," Ms. Jowell said.

"We must ask why 16-year-olds can buy cigarettes, but only 18-year-olds can buy alcohol." Official figures show 28 per cent of boys aged 15 are regular smokers and 33 per cent of girls.

At present shopkeepers face heavy fines for selling cigarettes to children under 16 but regulations and the policing of them are deemed to be ineffective.

Shortly after taking power in May, the Labour government said it would ban sponsorship of sporting events by tobacco companies. It also outlawed all tobacco advertising.

## Brazzaville factions ignore ceasefire

KINSHASA (AFP) — Heavy weapons fire reverberated through Brazzaville early Monday, a day after a ceasefire was signed by Congolese President Pascal Lissouba.

The sound of mortar explosions could be clearly heard across the Congo River in Kinshasa.

"They are firing everywhere," an independent military source said.

But the source added that, although the ceasefire was being ignored, the fighting could be continuing because of "a misinterpretation of the date when the ceasefire was meant to begin."

Congo's ceasefire was scheduled to come into effect first thing Monday and was signed separately Sunday by Mr. Lissouba. His chief rival and predecessor, Denis Sassou Nguessou, signed the truce Saturday.

According to the source, it is possible that forces loyal to Mr. Lissouba and Mr. Sassou Nguessou's militia believed the ceasefire was meant to begin overnight Monday, rather than immediately after midnight Sunday.

So far none of the ceasefires called since fighting broke out on June 5 have endured.

Clashes began when gov-

ernment troops attempted to arrest Mr. Sassou and disarm his militia ahead of presidential elections which are planned for July 27, but are sure to be postponed.

The subsequent fighting has left between 1,000 and 2,000 dead, according to humanitarian organisations.

Also Monday, representatives of the two sides were to travel to Libreville for political talks to seek a negotiated settlement. Radio Congo, monitored in Kinshasa, reported.

The talks were called by Gabonese President Omar Bongo Monday, who heads an international mediation committee.

## Sri Lanka's ruling alliance meets on new constitution

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's ruling People's Alliance (PA) began a two-day session Monday to discuss ways to push through constitutional reform aimed at devolving more powers to minorities.

Party officials said all PA lawmakers were meeting at a resort in Kalutara, south of the capital Colombo, where President Chandrika Kumaratunga would argue for the reforms as a way of helping end the country's bloody ethnic war.

Justice and Constitutional Minister Gamini Peiris, the architect of the new constitution, said last week the PA lawmakers would be briefed on the proposed reforms and be given specific responsibilities for their implementation.

"The object is to secure direct participation of all members of PA. We hope to carry forward this process to a rapid conclusion before the budget session in November," Mr. Peiris said.

The committee is negotiating key issues such as devolution of power to minorities and demarcation of proposed new councils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

A senior government minister told Reuters last week the UNP was unlikely to support the government over the new constitution in the 225-member parliament, where the PA has a one-seat working majority.

Sri Lanka is ravaged by a war, now in its 14th year, waged by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels against government troops. The LTTE demand an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

Most Tamil parties, which support the PA, have complained over the delay in implementation of the constitutional reforms and have said further delay might lead to an intensification of the ethnic war, which has already claimed thousands of lives.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

## Expert suspects carbon dioxide emission killed Japanese troops

TOKYO (R) — Three army soldiers who died of mysterious fumes during mountain training on a volcano in northern Japan may have succumbed to a freak carbon dioxide emission, a Japanese volcano expert said Monday.

Volcanology Professor Junichi Hirabayashi of Tokyo Engineering University said air samples from a volcanic pit on the side of Mount Hakoda where the soldiers collapsed showed concentrations of carbon dioxide 500 times the lethal level.

Prof. Hirabayashi said in a report to the ar-

my, or the Ground Self-Defence Force, that the soldiers may have died from the emission, or a combination of the emission and a lack of oxygen, an army spokesman said.

Army chemical warfare experts were analysing air and ground samples taken by Prof. Hirabayashi, the spokesman said.

Aomori prefectural police said the cause of death was still not clear and have decided to conduct autopsies.

The accident occurred on Mt. Hakoda, about 600 kilometres north of Tokyo, Saturday.

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A man holds his bag of food as he tries to cross a flooded street in the centre of Wrocław. Flooding in Poland has resulted in 33 deaths and forced thousands from their homes (Reuters photo)

## Poland to go into mourning over flood catastrophe

WARSAW (R) — Poland has announced a day of mourning over week-long floods that have killed at least 33 people, caused incalculable damage to the country's south and are still spreading along the swollen Odra River.

While waters slowly receded and evacuees returned to devastated homes in dozens of towns and hundreds of villages in southern Poland, surges of flood water swept north up two major rivers to bring the horror to other communities.

"The government has decided to declare next Friday a day of national mourning," Prime Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz told reporters late Sunday after the cabinet met to decide how to coordinate rescue efforts and find funds to remedy the damage.

He said parliament would return from recess for a special sitting Wednesday to pass needed amendments to 25 laws including this year's budget — among other things to allow higher borrowing at home and abroad.

Mr. Cimoszewicz said the full costs of the disaster might never be known.

"It is impossible to rationally estimate the scale ... Losses are so vast no officials can make such estimates," he said.

The prime minister said he would appoint a special official with full powers to draft and implement reconstruction efforts.

Over the weekend, the front line of Poland's battle against the deluge was Wrocław, a historic city of 650,000 people which was part of Germany and known as Breslau before 1945.

The high-point in a northward surge along the Odra hit Wrocław, swamping suburbs and most of the centre.

People stranded in high-rise buildings signalled to helicopters clattering overhead to call for food and to be rescued.

Thousands of volunteers battled for hours building sand-bag barricades to defend the historic old town square and an island with famous buildings and a university library containing priceless books. Local officials said they seemed to

have won.

But even as the flooding slowly subsided, waters continued to spread in the city, prompting a new fight to save the zoo.

The high-water level closed on towns further north towards the German border, including Glogow and Brzeg Dolny. Some 8,000 residents in the Legnica area were evacuated.

Deputy Environment Minister Krzysztof Szamalek told reporters it might still cause some floods, but added: "It won't be a cataclysm."

A less dangerous swell of high water was also advancing along the Wisla River and was due to reach Warsaw early Monday, but Mr. Szamalek said it would not flood the capital.

Mr. Szamalek said 2,400 square kilometres were under water, down from 3,600 square kilometres at the peak of the floods.

The deluge, the region's worst natural disaster in centuries, also devastated swathes of the neighbouring Czech Republic during the week. It followed days of heavy rain.

Where the flooding receded, dozens of towns and hundreds of villages were left strewn with sewage, rubbish and dead cows.

Health officials broadcast warnings to hundreds of thousands of returning evacuees and survivors to clean everything, sterilise water and beware of contaminated food.

Poles elsewhere took gifts of soap, clothes, bread and blankets to collection points for transport south, but there were also reports on Polish radio of looting and profiteering.

Mr. Cimoszewicz and President Aleksander Kwasniewski were due to visit Bonn Monday for the first session of planned regular German-Polish consultations and the prime minister said Poland needed further help from abroad, notably pumps.

Germany has rallied to help, supplying money, equipment and expertise. Foreign aid has also come from other sources.

## Indian monsoon rains claim 270 lives

CALICUT (AFP) — Around 70 people have died in the southern Indian state of Kerala in recent days as some of the worst monsoon rains in living memory lashed the coastal region, officials said Monday.

They said the casualties, bringing the total monsoon death toll across the country to 270, had been recorded over the past week.

Around 23,000 families were evacuated as floodwaters destroyed thousands of homes and crops in the coastal state.

Hundreds of rescue workers were using make-shift boats to ferry food to marooned villagers in the flood-stricken districts, witnesses said.

In the northern district of

Kasargod, more than 26 people died — most of whom were killed when their houses collapsed. An official spokesman said 10 more people were reported "missing."

In the adjoining district of Calicut, 21 people drowned in the floods, he said.

A spokesman of the Meteorological Office said the monsoon rains which had hit Calicut was the heaviest in district for "about a century."

"A 10-year-old boy and his sister who were trying to cross a bridge were swept away by gushing waters in Calicut," the official said.

"Most of the bodies recovered have not been claimed

so far."

Businesses and schools remained shut in Calicut for the sixth consecutive day but officials said the flood waters were receding.

In the capital city of Tiruvananthapuram, the government called an emergency meeting to discuss measures to step up relief measures.

Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar urged Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral to release relief funds for the state.

"The estimated loss for the state is about \$8 million," a state government spokesman said.

A report in the Hindu newspaper Monday said more than 550 homes were

reported destroyed and another

8,500 damaged in Kerala.

Another 11 people have died in the northern state of

Uttar Pradesh over the past two days, newspapers reported, as several rivers, including the Ganges, rose dramatically due to heavy rains.

The monsoon hit the south of India in the first week of June and the rains have been gradually moving northwards. They reached New Delhi last week.

The first deaths were reported in Maharashtra and Gujarat, on the western coast of the country. Floods were also reported in the eastern state of Assam Monday.

## Floods in eastern China kill 16; toll tops 100

BEIJING (AFP) — Floods in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangxi have left 16 dead, bringing the death toll in summer flooding across the country to 100.

"We have 16 confirmed deaths at the moment, but waters are still rising and we expect the toll to increase," a provincial government official said by telephone.

Jiangxi has witnessed almost non-stop rainfall since June 6, causing major rivers to burst their banks and inundating 340,000 hectares (8.4 million acres) of farmland.

Altogether, 5.6 million people in the province have been affected by the flood waters, which have destroyed 26,000 houses and forced more than 3,000 fac-

ilities to suspend opera-

tions, the official said. The annual flooding has already claimed 70 lives in the southern provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi, as well as 14 in Fujian and Zhejiang provinces.

Local officials in Zhejiang said Monday that the flood situation there had been brought under control, with the heavy rainstorms of the

past week finally easing up.

Around a dozen people died in the Zhejiang flooding, which affected 5.14 million people, damaged 80,000 homes and flooded 226,780 hectares (560,146 acres) of land. Economic losses for the whole province were estimated at three billion yuan (\$361 billion).

## Bangladesh flood toll reaches 80, many missing

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods sweeping Bangladesh killed 16 more people Sunday, raising the confirmed death toll to 80, officials said Monday.

They said 19 people missing since a boat capsized in the flooded Sangu River three days ago still remained unaccounted for and are also presumed dead.

"There is no reason to hope that the missing boat passengers are alive. If we accept that, the death toll in the week-long flooding is already 99," one official in

Chittagong said. Officials said most of the victims had died in landslides, house cave-ins or drowned.

They said at least 100 other people were missing in various flood affected districts and nearly 50 were injured.

The death toll could rise further when areas still cut off by floodwaters became accessible, they added.

Water started receding slowly after rains that caused the deluge in 19 out of the country's 64 administrative districts had stopped Sunday.

"But the monsoon remains quite active and may cause more rainfall soon," one weather official in Chittagong said.

Roads between Chittagong port city and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar and the Chittagong hill tracts, remained impassable, transport operators said.

Railway links in some of the affected areas in the country's southeast were also disrupted.

Agriculture officials Monday said they were assess-

ing losses, but that full estimates would not be available until the floodwaters had fully receded.

They earlier said standing crops on at least 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares) were damaged.

Besides crops, thousands of hectares of shrimp farms and other fish projects have been washed away, causing substantial damage, officials said.

Civil administration and security forces were conducting relief and rescue operations, officials said.

## Cambodia's Hun Sen demands rival's arrest, accuses ASEAN

KAMPONG THOM (AFP) — Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen demanded the arrest and extradition of his rival co-premier Monday as he accused his South East Asian neighbours of interfering in his country's internal affairs.

Mr. Hun Sen, whose forces took Phnom Penh last week in fierce fighting, said he was now considering withdrawing his country's application to join the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

His warning came as Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, who is in Beijing recovering from medical treatment, said he was powerless to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Hun Sen also warned the international community against harbouring his rival First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was effectively ousted in the fighting. Mr. Hun Sen accuses the prince of bringing Khmer Rouge guerrillas to Phnom Penh to cause unrest, a charge the prince denies.

"If anybody dares to protect (him), I can say that that foreign country is the defender of a traitor," he told reporters after addressing villagers in this central province.

"I wish the international court and international community to arrest Prince Ranariddh and send him back to Cambodia," he said.

"I appeal to the Cambodian court also to prepare documents in order to (indict) Norodom Ranariddh and then release a warrant to arrest him (in) a foreign country."

The prince fled Cambodia on July 4, the day before the fighting began, and has been campaigning for international sanctions against Mr. Hun Sen's "new government," which he says was installed by a coup.

Mr. Hun Sen also claimed a corrupt Taiwanese major-general, now in hiding in Phnom Penh, had been a vital arms and money supplier to the prince.

"I accuse Taiwan completely, but not the good people in Taiwan only the bad Taiwanese mafia groups."

But he offered no proof of his claim and Taiwanese military officials Monday were quick to deny the allegation.

Mr. Hun Sen also claimed in a Taipei newspaper that a Taiwanese company had supplied 30,000 tonnes of weapons to Prince Ranariddh.

Mr. Hun Sen's warning to ASEAN comes a week after the group decided to indefinitely postpone Cambodia's expected entry later this month, a move which analysts said enraged the second prime minister.

"I am afraid I will withdraw from ASEAN membership because (apparently) ASEAN can interfere in internal affairs," Mr. Hun Sen said.

"I have called my senior ministers (and asked) 'should we go into ASEAN or should we stop?' I want to stop if ASEAN continues to interfere in the internal affairs of the nation."

Cambodia was to enter the group at the end of the month, together with Burma and Laos, who are still expected to be admitted, joining current members Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Later Monday ASEAN said it would send foreign ministers from Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, to meet with Cambodia's leaders.

ASEAN has no plans "to interfere or judge" the situation

in Cambodia or either of the warring factions, Jakarta's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said.

In China, King Sihanouk, father of the ousted Prince Ranariddh, called on the international community to withhold aid to the rival factions and condemned as immoral all contact with Khmer Rouge guerrillas by the two warring premiers.

"The Khmer Rouge have committed unpardonable crimes against humanity," wrote the king.

"I must ask all foreign countries without exception not to give any aid to the Cambodian belligerents odiously engaged in this abominable and unjustifiable enterprise of inter-Khmer destruction."

King Sihanouk also said from Tuesday he will receive special envoys from France, Japan, ASEAN and the United States.

In northern Cambodia Monday, fighting raged after Mr. Hun Sen's troops pushed royalist forces out of their former stronghold in Siem Reap province, military sources said.

Prince Ranariddh's royalist FUNCINPEC troops retreated to Samrong, in northern Oddar Meanchey province, after losing more than 40 kilometres of ground to forces of Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in Siem Reap Sunday.

The well-fortified Samrong, just 80 kilometres from the Thai border, has become a key bastion for the beleaguered royalists.

"The CPP chased the Khmer Rouge and FUNCINPEC all the way up to Samrong yesterday (Sunday) and we will push them out into Thailand if they don't surrender," a CPP commander at a post on the road to the front told AFP.

Vietnam indicated quiet support Monday for the Hun Sen-led government in Cambodia, saying stability was better than turmoil and backed Phnom Penh's early membership of the ASEAN regional grouping.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan was quoted by the Saigon Times daily as saying Hanoi wanted to see stability in Cambodia "so that bilateral ties between the two countries, especially those concerning trade and economic issues, can be maintained."

But a separate and carefully worded Foreign Ministry statement issued at the weekend went further.

It said that while Vietnam supported a consensus decision by the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to delay Cambodia's accession, it believed Phnom Penh should have been allowed to join this month alongside Burma and Laos.

"From the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, we think it would be best if all three countries are admitted," the statement said. "However ... Vietnam follows the ASEAN principle of consensus."

Vietnam's relations with Cambodia and Mr. Hun Sen are sensitive. Mr. Hun Sen was in Vietnam earlier this month just days before the overthrow of First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

But officials here said he was merely on vacation, and reacted with fury to a Khmer Rouge radio broadcast which accused Hanoi of colluding with Mr. Hun Sen to oust his rival. A Foreign Ministry statement described the claim as "blatant slander."

## New Seoul law to help Northern defectors cope

SEOUL (R) — South

Korea, faced with a growing number of defections from the Communist North, adopted new legislation Monday to help asylum seekers cope with their new capitalist home.

The centrepiece of the new law is a half-way house where defectors will spend their first year studying politics, the economy, culture and social studies.

Another two years will be spent easing the new arrivals into society, with the government offering subsidised education and housing, as well as job training.

During this time, they will be under police supervision.

The entire programme will be administered by the Ministry of National Unification instead of a previous cluster of government agencies.

"We needed a systematic way to reeducate defectors as about half of them seemed to be having trouble adapting to their new environment," said the official, who declined to be identified.

The government will fund the initial year of re-education.

The South is hoping to open a reeducation centre by November next year with places for 100 people. Eventually, the facility will expand to house 500 defectors.

Each defector will be eligible for up to 31.6 million won (\$35,000) in assistance.

Cash payments will be made to the small number of military personnel who arrive with military hardware and government officials who flee their Stalinist homeland with secrets.

Previously awards were also offered in gold.

A fighter jet or naval vessel is worth up to 150 million won, any other kind of aircraft 50 million won, a tank 50 million won, side arms and rifles 10 million won. Secrets are valued at up to 250 million won.

## Pakistan and India to release around 400 fishermen Tuesday

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan and India will swap Tuesday nearly 400 fishermen detained from either country for illegal fishing in disputed waters of the Arabian Sea, officials said Monday.

The exchange is seen as a major confidence building measure since the bitter rivals initiated negotiations in March on improving bilateral ties.

A three-member delegation of the Pakistani Fishermen's Cooperative Society left Monday for Bombay to bring back 194 fishermen jailed in India since 1993, they said, adding that one Pakistani fisherman had already died in detention.

Pakistan authorities are also expected to hand over an equal number of Indian fishermen detained in Karachi.

The boats confiscated by the two countries will be released later this month, officials said.

Pakistan seized 35 Indian boats while 26 Pakistani vessels are being held by Indians, sources said.

Hajaj Ghazunfar Ali Boota, manager of the fishermen society, welcomed the move, saying the swap was needed desperately.

"It was a humanitarian issue. Some 400 families had been waiting for this reunion," Mr. Boota told AFP before leaving for India.

The fishermen will arrive here on a Pakistan International Airline's flight Wednesday, Mr. Boota said, adding his organisation had made arrangements to meet

the repatriation cost of around \$250,000.

The fishermen's release was agreed in late June when the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Islamabad for their second round of peace dialogue.

The next meeting is scheduled in New Delhi in September.

The rival neighbours opened the process of negotiations in March after a diplomatic freeze of more than three years.

The two sides have agreed on an eight point agenda for talks which includes the thorny issue of Kashmir which caused two wars between the subcontinent neighbours since their independence from the British colonial rule in 1947.

## Armenia and Azerbaijan reach secret deal on disputed enclave

YEREVAN (AFP) — Armenia and Azerbaijan have reached a secret deal on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian said Sunday.

"The question of Nagorno-Karabakh has taken a decisive step forward with a new compromise," Mr. Ter-Petrosian said. Details of the deal are being kept under wraps until an accord is signed, he said.

But he reiterated Armenia would never sign an accord without the full backing and signatures of representatives of the territory itself.

Peace talks on the break-away territory in Azerbaijan have stalled since a ceasefire was declared in May 1994.

Azeri forces unsuccessfully tried to retain control of the ethnic-Armenian enclave in fighting from 1988 to 1994, which left an estimated 30,000 dead.

Azerbaijan claims the enclave under the constitution of the former Soviet Union and has called on the international community to help preserve its territorial integrity.

Nagorno-Karabakh's ethnic Armenians want indepen-

dence, a claim backed by Yerevan.

Armenia last month said it supported a proposal put forward by France, Russia and the United States.

According to the Russian Interfax News Agency, it includes plans for a withdrawal of Armenian troops from around Nagorno-Karabakh and the deployment of a buffer force of Russian, U.S. and European troops.

Nagorno-Karabakh, for its part, would retain its armed forces and weapons, which would be monitored by the multinational force.

## Reformist wins in Russian regional poll

NIZHNY NOVGOROD (R) — Reformist Ivan Sklyarov has beaten a Communist rival to be elected governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, according to unofficial final results Monday from an election seen as a test of Russia's reforms.

"Fifty-two per cent voted for Sklyarov and 42 per cent voted for Gennady Khodrev," an Election Commission spokesman said following Sunday's poll.

Local television Seti NN said: "This result clearly shows that the population backs government reforms."

The turnout was 49 per cent in the run-off vote. The two rivals finished ahead of the field in the first round of voting in the region east of Moscow two weeks ago, but neither won enough votes then for outright victory.

Mr. Sklyarov, 49, has until now been city mayor in Nizhny Novgorod. He was backed by Reformists in the Kremlin including Boris Nemtsov, Nizhny Novgorod's governor until he was summoned to join the Russian government in March to boost reforms.



## Jordan Times

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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## On work and volunteerism

IT IS interesting to note that the Ministry of Social Development has been seeking to recruit young volunteers in social work areas. It is most curious that unemployment is one such area. Not many would argue that the other "social imbalances" listed by the ministry as needing help from young volunteers — juvenile delinquency, crime, break-ups of the family unit, and poverty — for the most part, are traceable to the serious issue of unemployment.

Last November, the government stated that the percentage of Jordan's population under the age of 30 was 73 per cent. Those between the age bracket of 15 and 25 were reported to be 33 per cent of the population. With the current unemployment rate hovering above 15 per cent, and at the same time taking into consideration youth who are still in school or pursuing higher education, that puts a significant number of the younger generation out of work. Although the humanitarian and civic role of volunteerism is not to be dismissed, this is hardly the time to solicit young volunteers from the ranks of those who have no income or adequate means of sustenance. Nor is it fair to set stringent conditions on those who indeed can afford to volunteer. How can the government say that it will not compensate a volunteer for any injury sustained while conducting his/her voluntary duty? The issue at hand is volunteerism, not militancy.

The ministry's campaign coincidentally follows another move to recognise and applaud youth who have shrugged at the "culture of shame" stigma and have taken on jobs non-commensurate with their level of education. Although the shame stigma is debilitating, the method of effacing it requires across-the-board support from various social units, the family, the community, the employers, to name only a few. However well intended, both the volunteerism campaign and the recognition of youth in jobs for which they are highly overqualified, to say the least, require further advisement, lest they be viewed as a method of sweeping the unemployment problem under the carpet. Several professionals should be consulted to help devise volunteer programmes that would serve the various categories of volunteers and the beneficiaries. The programmes could also be divided into timeframes that would suit the need in question as well as the volunteer. Those who are able to devote more time would be placed accordingly. If the work involved is conducted begrudgingly, no one benefits. In the case of attracting unemployed, educated youth to jobs requiring little skill, the private sector could be solicited for innovative approaches. A cooperative system may help to better match these youth with jobs they might find, although far from ideal, at least interesting, maybe even somewhat gratifying. Added incentives for better job placement at a later stage could serve both sides well. Carefully planned, both missions have a healthier chance of survival.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai's daily has reflected on the case of the former Sri Lankan honorary consul to Jordan, Tawfiq Abu Khajil, who has been exonerated of all charges by the Court of Appeals. The man's reputation has been tarnished by the local press in a shameful manner because he had faced charges on 86 counts, including rape, trafficking in babies, forgery and usage of forged documents; this will be remembered by the public for a long time to come, although he was acquitted by the court, said Fakhri Kassar. The writer said that he sympathised with Abu Khajil and his family because the community had caused him harm by passing quick judgement on him, without waiting to learn of the final court's verdict. Abu Khajil's case is just one of many other cases of citizens who have gone through this ordeal before and whose reputation and credibility sustained lifelong damage. The writer said that in civilised communities, a person remains innocent until proven guilty. But, he said, this principle seems to be reversed in our country where citizens are arrested and their reputation damaged before their innocence is declared.

RASHID HASSAN, a writer for Al Aswaq, discussed a decision by the Muslim Brotherhood who decided to boycott the coming general elections, saying that it is to be regretted that the largest political group and one with the widest popular base is pulling out of the race for parliament. The writer said that the decision means depriving the largest political group of the chance of participating in the country's democratic march, adding that the Islamists' absence from the political scene renders the opposition in parliament a fragile and marginalised faction that can by no means bind the government's actions. Indeed the Islamists, who won 30 per cent of the votes in the 1993 parliamentary elections, will be a loss felt by the Jordanian society because the Islamists' opposition in parliament had contributed to real political pluralism in the country, added the writer. It is true, said the writer, that the Muslim Brotherhood could have been motivated to take this decision because of the one-person, one-vote elections system and because the government used to take decisions without any regard to the opposition's views, but, he said, boycotting the elections can bring no solution to the problem.

## The View from Fourth Circle

## The Arab state and the loyal opposition — dancing the validation tango

By Rami G. Khouri

THE MUSLIM Brotherhood's decision last week not to take part in this November's parliamentary elections poses a profound challenge to the eight-year-old Jordanian move towards greater democracy. Thus Jordan is an important test case for the prospects for democratisation and political liberalisation throughout the Arab World, for the resolution of this current mini-crisis may well reverberate for good or ill throughout the region.

In most Arab and Middle Eastern countries (e.g. Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria) usually the state casts a vote of no confidence in the Islamist opposition and sends the political system into crisis. In Jordan, the opposite is happening: the Islamist opposition has cast a vote of no confidence in the state, sparking a mini-crisis that may grow into something much more complex should the other opposition forces decide this week to join the Brotherhood's elections boycott.

The following broad reasons for the boycott are shared by many in the opposition and, more importantly, by many in the political centre: the sense that the executive branch of government is heavy-handed; does not politically engage the opposition or take it seriously; has reduced parliament to secondary status in the governance system; interprets the constitutional provision for temporary laws with excessive looseness; gets very close to harassing opposition political parties; and has skewed the elections against the opposition because of the electoral law, the nature of the electoral districts, the refusal to allow international monitoring, and the state's privileged access to the electronic mass media.

Intellectually and morally, it makes a difference whether these accusations are accurate or false; politically, it makes no difference, for the key political fact is that the Islamist and leftist opposition have been making such accusations against the governments of the last three prime ministers. This is not a personal attack against Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his ministers, or a sudden political problem. This is a chronic critique of the particular political governance system that is being offered to the Jordanian people this decade — a political culture that the state feels is appropriately modern, pluralistic and participatory, but that the opposition feels is superficial, limited and deceptive in its democratic soul.

The Muslim Brotherhood has always operated legally in

Jordan as a social and political force because it always played by the rules of the national consensus. This signal by the leading opposition party that it can no longer play by the rules tells us either that the rules are no longer fair, or that the opposition itself is no longer capable of playing the game because it has lost so much credibility among its supporters and the public at large. The important immediate task is to find out which is the real reason — is the democratic system politically unfair, or is the Muslim Brotherhood politically incompetent?

The real test of any political system is not to function in normal, routine times, but to function in times of crisis. If the boycott is implemented in November, it will damage the state's claim that our democratisation process is credible and sustainable. How the state responds to this challenge will reveal much about whether we are experiencing genuine democratisation or merely cosmetic changes that retain major decision-making power in the hands of a narrow power elite.

The Muslim Brotherhood and the Jordanian state are challenged before the court of public opinion. I suspect that the Brotherhood has made a mistake in deciding to boycott the elections, because the Islamists have always achieved their gains in Jordan by working within the national political consensus. They should not quit the democratic game, but rather learn how to play the game better, even if they feel that the rules have been bent. Painful as it is for them, they must learn to operate as a minority opposition force with greater humility and effectiveness, for they are, after all, the minority opposition, and not the majority.

The government and the state, for their part, are challenged to learn to play the democratic game with equal vigour and seriousness — which means having to engage the opposition more forcefully and occasionally making compromises that lend credibility to the entire political process, rather than strengthening any one contestant in that process.

Seven years ago, the modern Jordanian system of nascent democracy and electoral pluralism was born through a process of nationwide, inclusive consultation based on the deliberations and recommendations of the Royal Commission for the National Charter. The strength of that commission and the National Charter that it produced were not based primar-

ily on the actual terms of the charter, but rather on the fact that all political opinions and ideologies in Jordan participated in formulating it. The National Charter-making process was meaningful because it was democratic and inclusive, because it affirmed majority positions while being sensitive to minority sentiments, and because it acknowledged the supremacy of a patient, open, deliberative process over the temptation of swift, narrow, expedient executive decrees and temporary laws. A renewal of open, democratic dialogue is required today to deal with this mini-crisis in Jordanian politics, in a manner that strengthens the democratic national consensus rather than weakens or shatters it. A series of healthy, constructive political compromises is out there begging to be seized by thoughtful and mature people.

This is a test of the Jordanian government's and state's self-professed and widely publicised democratic credentials, as much as it is a test of the opposition's political wisdom and proficiency. At the start of the 1990s, the Jordanian state validated the political legitimacy of the Islamist and leftist/nationalist opposition; at the end of the 1990s, the opposition is saying that in turn it must validate the credentials of the state and government. This is how genuine and sustainable democratic governance works: the rules are defined and constantly revalidated by all parties, and not only by the strongest.

The two players here — the government and the opposition — are like Siamese twins that can only survive and flourish if they act together. If one tries to negate the other, by boycotts or by arrogant heavy-handedness, both suffer. If one twin decides to monopolise or pull out of the democratisation process, both will suffer, and one or both could die. The Jordanian people in the end would pay the price of making the torn journey from the healthy politics of democratic consensus-building, through a mini-crisis of contested credibility, to a possible long-term fate of amateurism and mediocrity. If we proudly — and rightly so — asked the world to watch us as we democratised after 1989, we should remember that the world is still watching us as we deal with this first major crisis of our modern but young democratisation process.

## African democratisation — drawing from the old, adopting the new

By John Gay Yoh

MUCH DEBATE has been going on for a while now among African scholars and intellectuals on civil wars, democracy, development, debt crisis, refugees dilemma, international and regional cooperation. Among the problems plaguing the continent, the Great Lakes Region continues to be in chaos: the Rwanda refugees crisis remains unattended to; the Burundi Tutsi-led government continues its war against the Hutu rebels; Uganda rebel activity in the north and south continues unabated; the Angolan on/off war seems nowhere near the final conclusion.

The Zairian war, now called DRC, ended with Mobutu Sese Seko fleeing into exile after 32 years in power and with Laurent Kabila in power after 32 years in exile! In the neighbouring Congo Brazzaville, the street war is going on between two presidents, the incumbent and the former military leader. Each is trying to win elections before they actually take place!

Somalia is still in shambles as warlords continue their power struggle. In the Central African Republic the military rebellion over salary increase developed in a bloody conflict.

In Sudan, where the government has signed a peace agreement in April with some rebel groups, granting the south the right to choose between unity and secession after a four-year interim period, other rebel groups continue to wage war in the north and south, demanding General Bashir and his colleagues to go back to barracks as a minimum price for peace. These opposition groups will have to accept peace, otherwise the 40-year-old civil war will take more years and bloodshed to resolve.

In West Africa, Nigeria is in internal crisis with the army and the civilian politicians engaged in a fierce political conflict that has lasted for decades. In Sierra Leone, junior army officers in league with Foday Sankoh's RUF rebels toppled the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tijan Kabah — Kabah is the first Muslim to rule this diamond-rich West African state. In Liberia, the West African peacekeeping forces are trying to conduct elections where former warlords are asked to put aside their guns and go to the ballot boxes to determine their popularity.

In many ways, the continent is in big pain.

For the majority of African scholars and educated class, the best long-term solution to these problems is opening up of the political systems in the region. This type of governance should, nevertheless, have its own African characteristics. Some prefer to call it market-oriented

democracy. For Africans, however, the major question should be: What type of democracy should they adopt?

This article is part of the ongoing debate among African scholars worldwide on what form of democracy the continent should adopt.

By its nature, democracy has different meanings and connotations for different people, at different times. In other words, what is suitable for a given country — say an extensive presidency or cabinet government — is not necessarily appropriate for another. It becomes important, therefore, that democratic rules and principles, dictated of course by each country's history, should also be entrenched.

That is why I believe that the democratic principles adopted by South Africa can never be the same with those currently existing in, say, Mali. Some African countries — in fact most of them have elected assemblies whose major function would include monitoring government activities and capacity to exercise financial control, make policy recommendations, as well as make laws — need to be strengthened. I believe the aim of the African democratic institutions should be directed towards governance.

In an open system one would like to see both the government and the opposition groups create a culture of tolerance, mutual respect, responsible cooperation, as well as disciplined political competition and, most importantly, change of political leadership through equal voting. In such a delicate process, it is necessary that equitable arrangements be made to secure a smooth and peaceful transfer of power. The process should include pensions and appropriate arrangements for the outgoing leaders. The incoming elected government has the right to govern in a manner which should consolidate the establishment of civil society institutions which are the pillars of any democratic process. The opposition, on the other hand, should act in a way that is consistent with the constitution and, of course, with the envisaged democratic order.

But one should also emphasise that there are many challenges which make it difficult to consolidate the democratisation process in Africa. These include the divisive ethnic tensions, the weakness or non-existence of civil society institutions, whose function is to sustain democracy at all levels, poverty and underdevelopment, religious tensions, etc. It is my opinion that for such problems to be solved, one thing should have precedent over anything else for politicians, both in terms of theory and practice: that a sustainable

democratic system in Africa must grow from within societies and could neither be prescribed nor imposed from the outside. But how do we go about consolidating such a system in a highly tribalised continent such as Africa?

I believe almost everybody agrees that the colonial system of government which most African states passed through had more in common with a one-party system than with a competitive multi-party structure. In fact, when the nationalists took over from the colonial powers, it was this centralised system of governance that they captured, more to the dismay of the African peoples who had offered them their unconditional mandate. Somehow, the result was that the African nationalism which emerged later was a "political", rather than cultural, and not even a tribalistic movement.

Perhaps as a cover up, and in order to demonstrate their newly acquired popularity to the outgoing colonialists, the nationalists opened up their political base for participation, by allowing political parties to function; and it was after independence that political competition in most African states was abandoned. Soon after that, the one-party system was adopted and it soon became identical with the very concept of state, at least for its strong advocates. The supporters of the one-party system argued that Africa cannot afford the luxury of opposition and/or confrontational politics if national unity, economic and social development had to be maintained. Therefore, the focus of the one-party camp had to be on the purpose of nation-building within a single party structure.

Then the military came to the forefront as a "government in waiting." Blaming the new political class on the continent for the corruption and accusing it of preferring to fill their own pockets and those of their political allies with public funds, then working for the benefit of all, the army found themselves duty-bound to take over power. For many middle-rank army officers, power was taken as fitting their national status; and they considered themselves as capable of transcending social and ethnic or tribal divisions.

It was not long, however, before Africans realised that the military were worse than civilian rulers: they soon introduced divisions within their ranks. Indeed, on several occasions, the military turned out to be more repressive and abusive of human rights than politicians.

There is no doubt that the opening up, which most African countries witnessed from 1990 on, was the result of internal and external pressures. The majority of politicians who had been

excluded from active politics were becoming impatient with the existing political structures. These politicians soon won the support of the educated class members of the elite and those working within the government machinery, a group which began to observe the limits of the operating structures and policies. As a result, people began to rebel, as their standards of living were deteriorating. The demand for a broad-based political system gained momentum.

On the external front, and as early as 1989, the post-cold war policies were also in favour of transition to multi-party democracy. More to the dismay of the African generals and the one-party political school graduates, international financial institutions began to talk seriously about "transparent administrations," protection of human rights and restoration of democratic institutions. All the above "conditionalities" reinforced the pressures for opening up political participation in most African nations.

One should also acknowledge some structural problems which the current generation has inherited from the colonial governments. I am referring here to the lack of a solid political culture, as it is perceived today. This means that the rules of political game in a democratic culture, as it existed, say, in England, were not available in the young African states. For one, the majority of African nations were not free from tribal/ethnic conflicts. Unlike Arabs, for example, whose religion, Islam, acted as a common denominator, vis-a-vis the colonialists, Africans' loyalty was to one's tribal base or what some refer to a "vote bank." This tribal affiliation was not only ineffective, it was a threat to the stability of any would-be emerging democratic system on the continent.

Another problem which the nationalists had to face was the absence of civil societies which should operate independently of the state, but under the protection of the government. In the absence of these important institutions, personal advancement depends on a political patron, a practice inherited from the colonial powers. I am sure the existence of independent social and economic organisations, which replaced the disintegrated government institutions in Lebanon during the 17 years of civil war, helped the country survive as one nation; and in any case, war could have not stopped without the existence of these organisations. The establishment of these institutions would divert peoples' attention from concentrating on power struggle.

It is true that no ruling party would want to surrender power willingly; but in broad-based political systems, peoples' vote

is paramount and the ruling parties only accept electoral defeat if doing so does not condemn them permanently to political isolation. But how can trust between the opposition and the government and between the former two and the electorate on the other hand be created?

For some veteran politicians, the solution would be through electoral commissions. Laws pertaining to the elections should be independent from the government in power and the commission should have financial autonomy.

Some say that the same treatment should be applied to the judiciary systems in African countries. One major problem in Africa is that most, if not all, opposition parties — be they militant or political — have a high rate of defection. Once the access to power becomes impossible, most politicians find it meaningless to stay in passive politics; they move from one political forum to another. But again, how can the opposition be reassured that they will not be harassed by the government security agencies? Or, again, how can the government be reassured that the opposition will confine its activities to legitimate criticism and not resort to extra-constitutional subversion?

It is often held that poverty prevents progress and development of democratic institutions: to a large extent, it is a plausible assumption. Yet, we do know that even in Africa, where poverty is almost part of the daily life, people have shown interest in exercising their democratic rights.

India, for example, has always been cited as a lively demonstration of successful democracy in a poor society. This in effect suggests that although there is continuous tension between programmes of economic and political liberalisation of African governments, it is not necessarily true that wealth is always a prerequisite for democracy. It is also true that neither constitutions nor electoral systems themselves support a democracy in the absence of trust and/or confidence between social groups.

The existence of this trust can help promote mutual understanding and enable diverse groups to live together easily. In other words, certain arrangements, which for some groups may look biased against their interests, may undermine the will and interest to coexist peacefully and, in extreme cases, may aggravate secessionist feelings.

Should the constitution concentrate too much power in the centre, at the expense of the regions, or is it fair to change the constitution from a unitary-centralised one to one whereby the government is elected by proportional representation

designed to favour a more broad-based government? Or should special status be granted to a given minority group? I guess it really requires patience from both the government and the opposition parties to search for answers to these important, but difficult, questions.

The main problem for Africans has been how to adapt to the pattern and the shape of the world made for them by outsiders. The continent is portrayed as a region that had played no part in shaping the course of history; a region that had stood back and only came into contact with history, or was it the world, through its contact with Europe.

It is this suspicion, I think, which lies at the bottom of African fear of any political advice coming from outside. The real problem in Africa is not, as the chief of the Commonwealth put it, the institutionalisation of a developing economy, but how to revitalise human aspects of African societies and build them within solid principles of social justice.

Of course adopting democratic principles is not enough and should not be an end by itself; we must note that a democratic society needs a trained manpower. The ongoing brain-drain should be halted if a sustainable democratic environment has to be achieved on the continent.

Can anything be gained from African traditional institutions? Long before the Europeans came to Africa, there existed African forms of government. There were traditional states operating as independent kingdoms. At the head of every state was a paramount chief, a powerful figure assisted by sub-chiefs. There also existed checks and balances in these traditional states. In case of major decisions, the head chief was bound to consult the elders for their opinions. Also, the nature of traditional law obliged the head of the society to consult the elders in the process of decision-making in order to avoid any danger of dictatorship. The priority of the traditional African state was how to attain stability and social justice.

It is fair to say, I believe, that no political system can be right unless it commands respect, understanding, acceptance and correct response from its citizens. It is the people who always decide what is best for them. The elite may impose their ideas and theories about the type of political system people want. But when given chance to react, people always determine their choice. And in my opinion, that is what democracy is all about.

The writer is visiting and research fellow of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.



## Is population growth responsible for environmental damage?

By Dr. Maher Fathi Abu Taleb

THE POPULATION growth/environmental damage debate has been one of the most widely studied aspects of modern development in academic and policy circles over the past decade, even though the general public in most societies has not been involved.

On the one hand, population control advocates and the popular media claim that degradation of the world's environment is due to over-consumption by the world's growing populations. On the other hand, experts with an opposing view claim that the theory that environmental degradation is largely due to population increases is not supported by the data. Although demographic pressures on natural resources do exist in certain localities, empirical evidence that carefully demonstrates relationships between the two variables of population growth

and environmental damage is lacking.

As recently as this past month, news items have appeared that exemplify policy decisions targeting population growth control. For example, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the world's population is around 5.85 billion, with an annual average growth rate of 1.8 per cent in less developed countries and 0.8 per cent elsewhere. The 1997 UNFPA report states that effective population and development policy is to stimulate the trend towards smaller families in order to strike a balance between population and resources.

The National Population Commission of Jordan states that high population growth exhausts the country's natural resources. And donor agencies have pursued the notion that population policies are good, often linking aid to less developed countries to efforts to control pop-

ulation growth.

Other organisations, like the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), address population growth issues in a more integrated way, analysing policies and programmes pertaining to population along with benefiting from modern trends in agriculture, food and sustainable development.

Experts like Julian Simon of the University of Maryland at College Park in the U.S. argue that data clearly indicates the world is better off than it was 50, 40, 30, or even 20 years ago. Indices of infant mortality, literacy rates, education, production, economic growth and others have consistently been on the rise.

So for example, in congested cities like New York and Tokyo, where local natural resources are not in balance with population demands, technical and economic advancement have provided a standard of living unsur-

passed by others. That is, it is not the high growth rates but the limits of technology and modern management that dictate the balance between human beings and their environment.

Given the two opposing views, why then is this considered such an important issue to address? First, it is important for governments to explain who is most responsible for our environmental crises, such as deforestation, desertification and resource depletion. Accordingly, once a simple concept, like high population growth, can be blamed for all our ills, simple policy decisions can follow.

Second, if it is true that there are no linkages between generalisations about population growth and disturbing generalisations about the pace of environmental damage, then we are all wasting our time.

Bringing the global debate to Jordan provides a mechanism to analyse its efficacy. According to UNFPA, Jordan has a current population

of 4.1 million, increasing at a rate of 3.3 per cent, placing a burden on natural resources. According to growth advocates, the data does not indicate that education levels, life expectancy and infant mortality are on the rise. The reverse is true — things are getting better all the time.

The 1997 UNDP Human Development Report indicates that life expectancy for Jordanians has increased from 67 to 68.5 years from 1990 to 1997. Adult literacy has increased from 75 per cent to 85.5 per cent of the population during the same period. Population growth advocates claim that the problems cannot be attributed to high growth rates but to the manner in which resources are utilised. Poor management, inefficiency, low technical productivity, waste, policy weaknesses, and the like, are the causes, for a country like Jordan, for not being able to provide a good standard of living for

more of its population.

This leads to the question: What is the status of the population growth/environmental degradation debate in Jordan? Presently, Jordan is adopting policies that address population growth and therefore approaches all development issues with the view that less population growth is better. This indicates that the country has already adopted the theory that rapid population growth has necessarily caused the environmental problems we now face. Is this valid, given the fact that the debate continues around the world? Are we attempting to solve the wrong problem, and if we are, does that necessarily imply that real environmental damage is not addressed?

Many experts suggest it may be impossible to proceed beyond the issues. However, it is important to reach a consensus on this debate, that is, to explore the interrelationships between high population growth and environmental degradation.

Should we utilise scarce resources in tackling issues that may or may not be valid and be blamed ourselves for environmental degradation, or should we first get the answers to the questions raised? Such an investigation could ultimately shed light on who or what is most to blame for our environmental ills. Only then can we proceed with greatest effect to solving our real problems — whatever they may turn out to be.

The writer is president of Environmental Resources Management Consultants of Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

## Randa Habib's corner

"HAVE YOU ever seen, in any country of the world, roundabouts with benches?", said my friend with an angry tone.

"This reflects a clear invitation for people to cross jammed streets, endangering their lives (and their children's), simply to sit there, and breathe the fumes of the cars driving around," he added.

I had to admit he is right, because I can see that site, every evening, as I drive by the 2nd circle.

"As for the state of the streets in general, they depend on certain factors... if you live just near a main road, then you are lucky, because your street will always be in good shape. But if you happen to have opted for peace and quiet, in a modest little corner of the town, then you must be suffering. I am talking about scattered ditches and open holes in your secondary streets, that were never filled up. That is not to mention trash piles for the great pleasure of the cats that dip in creating a bigger mess..."

"You are obviously in a bad mood today. When you nag like that, it means that something is wrong," I told my friend.

"Wrong, what could go wrong?" he retorted ironically. I wake up every morning at 7 a.m., to the beautiful sounds of horns, from the vehicles of gas-men obviously very anxious to replace my gas cylinder..."

"I agree with you, this must be annoying! I said.

"I get so angry, that I decide to walk to my office, just to calm myself down. But that is not easy either. Taxi drivers start yonking their homes at me, and urging me to get into their cars. Why can't we be the party which waves at a taxi like anywhere else in the world, instead of the other way round?" he added.

Listen, when I am in a bad mood, I try to joke about it. So why don't you try to relax and smile. Believe me, laughter is the best medicine for anger.

Easy for you to say, have you ever tried to have a good laugh? People wonder what is wrong with you. And if you ever manage to make them join in, a feeling of guilt suddenly appears, and they say: "God protects us from this laughter," as if one will have to pay a price for the mere fact of having a good time."

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## Poor but proud Cornwall seeks its place on the map

ST. KEVERNE, England (R) — Armed with axes and crossbows, thousands of enraged peasants set out for London from this remote village in Cornwall 500 years ago to march against the English crown.

The call to arms came in 1497 after King Henry VII imposed a tax to finance a war against Cornwall's rebellious Celtic brethren in Scotland.

The impoverished population, reeling from a string of bad harvests and marauding pirates along the coastline, was simply too poor to pay the levy.

An army of 25,000 English soldiers routed the Cornish forces at blackheath outside London, killing some 2,000 rebels. The leaders of the an gof uprising met a gruesome death. After being drawn and quartered, their dismembered body parts were impaled on spikes.

In the intervening centuries Cornwall has remained stubbornly distinct from the rest of the country — and distinctly poorer. The region's geographic isolation, nestled in southwestern England and bordered by water on three sides, has fuelled its sense of separatism.

Last Saturday, some 2,000 Cornish people gathered in St. Keverne, where the uprising began, to mark the anniversary and celebrate their Celtic roots.

A hardy group are retracing the rebels' 800-km march to London to bring attention to Cornwall's plight. Once again the source of their disquiet is English dominance and regional neglect.

We are being colonised and becoming a minority in our nation, said Anthony Richards, a St. Keverne beef farmer who traces his lineage back to rebel leader Michael Joseph An Gof, a village blacksmith. "At some point it has to stop. The Cornish are being driven out. There is no future here for our youth."

Cornwall has the lowest income level of any county in Britain and an unemployment rate of more than 12 per cent. Even during the peak summer tourist season when the population swells by 50 per cent, the rate dips by just one to two per cent.

Little else apart from holidaymakers lured by the area's natural splendour and beaches sustains the local economy. The tin mining industry, once the backbone of the region harking back to the Middle Ages, has all but disappeared.

While locals leave in search of work, the region's population, estimated to be near half a million, has grown by over 100,000 in the last 25 years as "English" outsiders, particularly the retired, flock to pastoral Cornwall.

The An Gof commemoration march comes at a time when regional nationalism in Britain has become a hot political issue. Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair's government is pushing ahead with plans to devolve power to Scotland and Wales.

Referendums are planned in September in both countries to decide whether they want their own assemblies. Britain consists of three

distinct nations, England, Scotland and Wales, as well as the province of Northern Ireland. Nationalists in Cornwall think they should be accorded similar status, if not outright independence.

"We are not looking at some misguided racially pure homeland, but a distinct region within Europe based on a shared sense of community in Cornwall," said Colin Lawry, a member of the Cornish separatist party Mebyon Kernow, or Sons of Cornwall in the local Celtic language.

Mr. Lawry and other Cornish nationalists look to such regions as the Basque Country, Corsica and Catalonia for inspiration. Their ultimate goal is independence within an evolving federal Europe.

"We must be realistic with our goals, but we are slowly heading in the right direction," he said.

The separatists face daunting obstacles in their quest for

Cornish independence. The "indigenous" population continues to dwindle as migration continues, with the Cornish estimated to make up only 40 per cent of the county's inhabitants.

In the May 1 general election, all four of Mebyon Kernow's candidates were heavily defeated. Mr. Lawry is the only one of 79 local councillors from the nationalist party.

The area is also heavily dependent on the London government for funding. "Cornwall could never survive on its own. It's far too poor," explains county archivist Christine North. "But there is independence of spirit rather than independence of nation."

"If Cornwall went independent it would drown like a rat," one anti-separatist said more succinctly.

Cornwall is awash with cultural and historical rediscovery, a process that has grown

over the past 20 years as residents try to recreate elements of a Celtic past that has long since vanished.

Stickers featuring the black and white Cornish flag printed with Kernow — Cornwall in Cornish — dot growing numbers of cars. "Cornish heritage" has been scrawled over signs marking English heritage sites.

Perhaps the most tangible sign of an attempt at reviving the past has been the recreation of Cornish, an ancient Celtic language that died out last century.

Using mediaeval literary texts and borrowing heavily from Breton and Welsh, scholars resurrected the extinct language. Several hundred people now speak it fluently.

"It helps reinforce a sense of identity that has been there all along," says Jenefer Lowe, a fluent speaker who is raising her four-year old daughter

to be bilingual in Cornish and English.

The European Union has designated the tongue an officially recognised living language and Britain's commission for racial equality has formally recognised the separate identity of a Cornish people for the first time.

A brewery has jumped in on the enthusiasm for all things Cornish with a beer called Cornish Rebellion.

But the pitfall of recreating something from the past is uncertain accuracy, explains historian North. "Some things have been pretty artificially created. It takes away from the historical authenticity."

At Saturday's cultural celebration in St. Keverne residents unveiled a statue commemorating the An Gof rebellion. It was designed by a local sculptor — an Englishman who migrated to the area.

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## 1997 deficit in Saudi Arabia seen low despite high spending

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is expected to keep its budget deficit low in 1997 although a surge in oil prices has encouraged it to boost spending by nearly 20 per cent, bankers said Monday.

The world's main oil reservoir has projected a shortfall of 17 billion barrels (\$4.6 billion), one of its lowest budget deficits since crude prices started to fall in the mid-1980s.

"The level of oil prices so far this year is very good for the Saudi economy and budget," a Riyadh-based Saudi banker told AFP.

"You do not know the trend of prices in the third quarter but the average will not be much lower than last year. This will help the kingdom control the budget deficit, or even depress it," he said.

The price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) basket of seven crudes has so far this year averaged \$19.13, far higher than the \$16-\$16.5 forecast by Saudi Arabia when it

released its budget for calendar 1997.

With its oil exports ranging between 6.2 million and 6.5 million barrels per day (bpd), the Gulf kingdom earned more than \$3 billion in extra income in the first seven months of 1997.

Part of the surplus funds has been earmarked for the international financial reserves as Saudi Arabia is seeking to replenish those resources following a steep decline caused by heavy payments for the 1991 Gulf War.

Citing International Monetary Fund figures, bankers said Riyadh's cash reserves increased to around \$9 billion at the end of April from \$6.79 billion at the end of 1996.

They had dived to their lowest level of around \$5 billion just after the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

"Saudi Arabia's financial situation has remained healthy this year. There is an increase in liquidity and almost all the outstanding debts for local contractors and farmers have been set-

tle," a Saudi banker said.

"We do not know how much they are actually spending, but it seems the situation is as good as last year in terms of revenue," he added.

Saudi Arabia, which controls more than a quarter of the global recoverable crude reserves, earned nearly \$8 billion in additional income in 1996 because of a surge of more than \$3 a barrel in oil prices.

But the surplus was used in supporting the international reserves and paying domestic debt. Such payments exceeded \$5.8 billion.

Buoyed by the strong oil prices, Riyadh raised spending to 181 billion riyals (\$48.2 billion) in 1997 from 164 billion riyals (\$43.7 billion) in 1996.

But the deficit was cut to 3.3 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) from around 4.1 per cent because of forecast higher revenues.

A large part of the spending increase was allocated

to education, which received 41.7 billion riyals (\$11.1 billion), nearly 50 per cent above the allocations in the previous year.

Allocations for health and social services were also raised by 35 per cent while government subsidies remained almost unchanged at seven billion riyals (\$1.86 billion).

Saudi Arabia has vowed to gradually reduce its budget deficit until it disappears in 2000.

The measures, which include controlled spending and development of non-oil income sources, came after the shortfall reached worrying levels due to Saudi contributions to the Gulf War.

The deficit hit an all-time high of around \$31.6 billion in 1991, accounting for as much as 26.8 per cent of the GDP.

"Even if oil prices were lower this year, the expansion in the budget will maintain growth. The economy has already performed well, mainly in the government sector," a banker said.

## NAFTA led to modest economic gains — White House

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The controversial North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had a "modest positive effect" on the U.S. economy, the White House said in a report to Congress.

The report's restrained language contrasts with White House claims four years ago that NAFTA — encompassing the United

States, Canada and Mexico — would energise the economy and create a rush of new jobs that pay high wages.

Opponents have maintained that NAFTA, which went into force Jan. 1, 1994, has cost the United States tens of thousands of jobs because it encourages U.S. businesses to hire cheaper labour in Mexico.

Citing several studies, the Clinton administration said that NAFTA "had a modest positive effect on U.S. net exports, income, investment and jobs supported by exports."

"The hard facts support that this (NAFTA) has been part of a sound economic strategy... Its potential suggests that benefits will be more substantial as time goes on," said White House Economic Advisor Gene Sperling.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said Mexico and Canada now account for one-third of total U.S. global trade. She added that if current trends continue, Mexico will surpass Japan this year as the number two U.S. trading partner.

Between 1993 and 1996, U.S. exports to Canada were up 33.6 per cent, while exports to Mexico rose 36.5 per cent, according to the White House report.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said the adoption of NAFTA has "contributed enormously to the speed of recovery in Mexico."

"NAFTA, by cementing a commitment to lower tariffs, played a substantial role in

Mexico choosing the difficult reform path," said Mr. Rubin.

He noted that unemployment and inflation levels in Mexico are down, financial stability and foreign capital have returned, while monetary and fiscal policy remain on track.

"The foundation of our economic relationship with Mexico is NAFTA," Mr. Rubin said.

Ron Carey, president of the Teamsters Union, scoffed at the administration's conclusions.

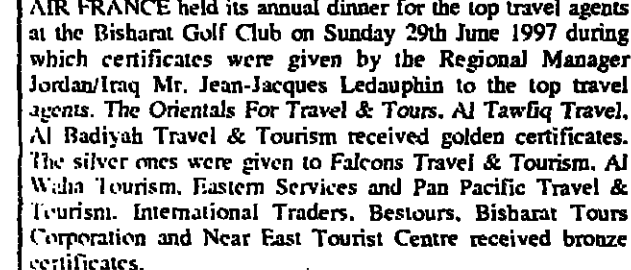
"The test of any trade agreement is whether it's good for working families," Mr. Carey said in a statement. "You have to close one eye and put your hands over your ears to say that NAFTA has measured up."

Mr. Carey said more than 400,000 U.S. jobs have been lost to NAFTA. He urged Congress to reject the Clinton administration's request for "fast track" authority leading to an expanded NAFTA.

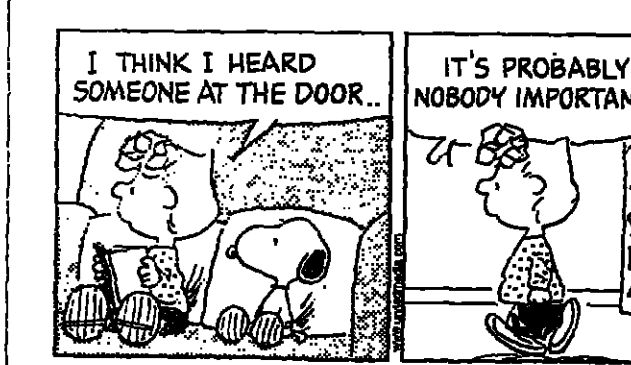
Late last month a powerful coalition of labour, environmental and policy groups called NAFTA a "failed experiment."

### AIR FRANCE HONOURS ITS TOP TRAVEL AGENTS AT THE BISHARAT GOLF CLUB AMMAN

AIR FRANCE held its annual dinner for the top travel agents at the Bisharat Golf Club on Sunday 29th June 1997 during which certificates were given by the Regional Manager Jordan/Traffic Mr. Jean-Jacques Ledauphin to the top travel agents. The Oriental For Travel & Tours, Al Tawliq Travel, Al Badiyah Travel & Tourism received golden certificates. The silver ones were given to Falcons Travel & Tourism, Al Waha Tourism, Eastern Services and Pan Pacific Travel & Tourism. International Traders, Bestours, Bisharat Tours Corporation and Near East Tourist Centre received bronze certificates.



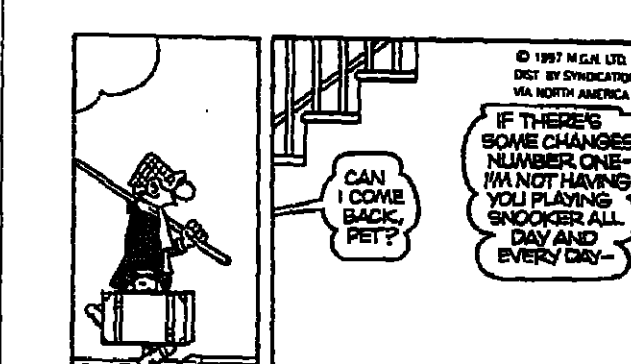
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### REUTERS

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### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SEK	DKK
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7900	0.5922	1.4735	113.72	1.3672	1739.70	2.0158	8.0455
DE Mark	0.5587	1.0000	0.3304	0.8231	63.47	0.7632	986.28	1.1258	3.3783
GB Sterling	1.6886	3.0240	1.0000	2.4976	192.17	2.3087	2931.79	3.4033	10.2078
CH Franc	0.6787	1.2142	0.4016	1.0000	77.13	0.8262	1177.57	136.77	4.1000
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5732	0.5291	1.2962	1.0000	1.2013	15.30	177.16	5.3164
CA Dollar	0.7314	1.2766	0.4318	1.0682	1.20	1.0000	1243.27	1.4373	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0293	0.3403	0.8847	1533.27	0.7859	1.00	11.98	3.4758
NL Guilder	0.4961	88.78	0.2835	73.10	56.38	0.6779	861.02	1.00	2.9978
FR Franc	0.1654	0.2957	0.0978	24.3433	16.78	0.2258	33.30	33.3000	1.00

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	IRR	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.6400	0.3028	3.6717	1534.60	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5325	5.1412	0.4277	5.1800	2167.37	4.7811
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.1885	0.8105	0.097	0.0807	0.08	0.0815	409.15	0.9026
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8781	9.9488	1.0000	9.8	0.8032	9.74	4070.51	8.9793
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	1.0000	0.0832	1.01	421.57	0.9289
Kuwait Dinar	3.3025	2.3382	12.3861	1.2450	12.02	1.00	12.13	5067.70	0.9299
Emirates Dinar	0.2724	0.1928	1.0215	1.0277	0.9914	0.0825	1.00	417.93	0.9219
Lebanese 1000	0.85	0.4814	2.4441	0.2457	2.3721	0.1973	2.3828	1.00	2.2059
Egyptian	0.2354	0.2092	1.1080	0.1114	1.0763	0.0895	1.0847	453.32	1.00

Energy				Mid-East Currencies					
Com.	Unit	Price	Review	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	18.63	18.40		SA Riyal	0.2660	0.4778	0.1679	0.3838	30.3788
WTI Texa	19.43	19.45		AE Dirham	0.2724	0.4873	0.1612	0.4019	30.9914
Bonny	18.63	18.40		KW Dinar	3.3025	5.91716	1.9598	4.87687	378.789
Dubai	37.10	16.85		BH Dinar	0.3770	4.75969	1.57085	3.91643	301.841
UL Gas	179.00	179.00		CY Pound	1.8982	3.3978	1.1233	2.7768	216.879

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Commodity	31st	Offer	Period	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
Gold (oz's)	321.4	321.9	USD	5.48	5.57	5.69	5.75	5.82
Silver (oz's)	4.29	4.31	GBP	6.58	6.56	7.09	7.18	7.18
Platinum (oz's)	403	407	JPY	0.44	0.50	0.53	0.57	0.58
AL (3 Months)	1588	1589	DEM	3.00	3.00	2.90	3.00	3.16
CU (3 Months)	2314	2315	FRF	3.69	3.15	3.21	3.25	3.28
Zinc (3 Months)	1504	1506	CHF	1.37	1.28	1.36	1.43	1.48
Lead (3 Months)	670	671	ITL	6.61	6.78	6.67	6.55	6.34
Ni (3 Months)	6930	6950						

Main Equity Indices									
Source	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	
New York	DOW JONES	7945.51	23.89	0.3	7944.3	7919.5	7921.82		
New York	S&P 500	920.78	4.11	0.45	921.07	916.8	916.88		
London	FT-SE 100	4843.5	4	0.82	4843.5	4796	4799.5		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20228.72	353.23	1.78	20228.7	19909.1	19875.5		
Paris	CAC 40	2941.58	12.5	0.43	2946.98	2928.38	2929.06		
Frankfurt	DAX	4124.19	53.22	2.06	4127.97	4078.71	4040.97		

Energy			JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (\$/cib)	178	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1598	Spot	GB Sterling	1.197	1.203
Sugar (\$/ton)	326.4	Spot	DE Mark	0.3971	0.3991
Wheat (\$/ton)	147	Spot	CH Franc	0.6818	0.6842
Soya (\$/cib)	21.9	Spot	FR Franc	0.1175	0.1181
Tea (\$/kg)	128	Spot	JP Yen	0.6217	0.6246
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot	NL Guilder	0.3526	0.3544
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot	IT Lira	0.4092	0.4112

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Main Equity Indices											
Index	Value	Change	% Chng	Index	Value	Change	% Chng	Index	Value	Change	% Chng
New York DOW JONES	7945.81	23.89	0.3	New York S&P 500	920.78	4.11	0.45	London FT-SE 100	4843.5	44	0.92
Tokyo NIKKEI 225	20224.72	353.23	1.78	Paris CAC 40	2941.59	12.5	0.43	Frankfurt DAX	4124.19	53.22	2.06

THE Daily Crossword

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19	Pungent bulb								
20	Final try								
23	TLC persons	38		39				40	41
24	French holy woman: abbr.	42		43				44	



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## Sargsian beats Steven for 1st ATP title

NEWPORT (R) — Fifth seed Sargis Sargsian of Armenia picked up his first career ATP Tour title Sunday by outdueling eighth seed Brett Steven of New Zealand 7-6 (7-0) 4-6 7-5 in the final of the \$255,000 Hall of Fame tennis championships.

The 24-year-old Sargsian, the 1995 U.S. National Collegiate singles champion while attending Arizona State, earned a first prize of \$36,200.

The 28-year-old Steven, ranked 90th in the world, was also seeking his first career ATP Tour title. He had knocked off second seed Mark Woodforde and third seed Grant Stafford en route to his first final since appearing in his native Auckland in 1996.

Defending champion Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela did not enter as he represented his country in Davis Cup qualifying this weekend.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Adelaide to host soccer at Olympics

SYDNEY (R) — Adelaide was named on Monday as the first of four Australian cities outside Sydney to have reached a deal with Olympic organisers on hosting soccer matches at the 2000 Games. A qualifying group will be based at Hindmarsh Stadium, a 20,000-capacity ground in the South Australia state capital shared by National League clubs Adelaide City and West Adelaide, organisers said. Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra, the national capital, were expected to host the other three qualifying groups — although Games organisers said there was still some uncertainty over Melbourne's plan to use a stadium still to be built. Sydney will stage two preliminary round matches, one quarter-final and semifinal, the final and bronze medal play-off match, organisers said.

### Rodman loses pro wrestling debut

DAYTONA BEACH (R) — Dennis Rodman, the National Basketball Association leader in rebounds and fines, got to attack a referee Sunday night in his unsuccessful debut as a professional wrestler. Rodman and Hulk Hogan lost their tag team match against Lex Luger and Giant, with Rodman kicking the referee out of the ring. "That was an acting debut," he said following the match. "I'm really an athlete," at which, Hogan grabbed a reporter by the neck and forced him out of the dressing room. Rodman was suspended three times for 14 games and paid \$87,500 in fines as a member of the NBA champion Chicago Bulls last season.

### Ginola set for Spurs move

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle star David Ginola is set to move to Premiership rivals Tottenham Hotspur, his agent Michel Benguigui confirmed Monday. The French ace has agreed personal terms with Tottenham. Chairman Alan Sugar after weekend talks on Sugar's yacht at Villefranche in the south of France. "David met with Alan Sugar on Sunday and they have settled the personal terms of the move," Benguigui told AFP. "The two clubs need to finalise a fee but David will have a medical on Tuesday and should link up with the other Tottenham players on their pre-season tour of Norway on the Wednesday." Ginola, who has found himself on the sidelines at Newcastle since Kenny Dalglish replaced Kevin Keegan as manager last season, is valued at 2.6 million pounds (about \$4.3 million).

### China sets 10th weightlifting record

YANGZHOU (AFP) — World records continued to tumble at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here Monday, with China's Wang Yannei setting a new mark in the women's 83-kilo snatch. Wang's victory, which came after a titanic struggle with Chinese Taipei's Chen Hsiao-Lien, marked the 10th world record to fall to Chinese weightlifters at the championships. Wang snatched 112.5 kilograms (247.5 pounds) to secure first place and break the new world record of 110 kilograms set minutes earlier by Chen.

## FEASIBILITY STUDY

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# Kawar secures silver medal on 2nd day of 8th Pan-Arab Games

## Jordan slated to host event in 1999 or 2001

By Aleen Bannayan  
and JSYIF press committee

JORDAN'S NADA KAWAR Monday secured a silver medal for Jordan when she scored 15.66 metres in the shot put on the second day of the 8th Pan-Arab Games which opened in Beirut Saturday.

The medal was Jordan's third after Kawar won a gold medal in the discus Sunday and Amal Matari won a bronze in the women's marathon. Amer Natour later added a bronze medal for Jordan in fencing.

Kawar, whose main event is the shot put in which she holds the Arab record at 17.39, was clearly disappointed as her throw was 4 centimetres shorter than Wafa' Ismail of Egypt who got 15.70 to take the gold.

In other results by Jordanians, Tareq Najjar came in sixth in the discus with 42.49 metres, while Mohammad Shaman was sixth in the 400 metres with a time of 48.28 seconds.

The Games had got off to a late start Sunday after a night of unprecedented festivities in post-war Lebanon.

A mother of three from Algeria won the first gold medal of the Games on Sunday, clocking 1:26:40 in the 21-kilometre women's marathon.

Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

On the sidelines of the competition, Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 or 2001 and the Secretary General of the Arab Sports Federation (ASF) Othman Sa'ad said a committee from the ASF would visit the Kingdom soon for talks with Jordanian officials.

Sa'ad added that the date had not yet been decided and it could be either in 1999 or 2001.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 19 countries are taking part in the Beirut Games with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

The weightlifting competition begins here Tuesday with Ayed Khuwaldeh competing in the 54-kilogramme category.

Khuwaldeh, who holds the gold medal in the 1996 Arab Youth Championship, told the press committee he was optimistic he could win first place. "I can already visualise the gold medal," he said.

Officials were happy with the 1-1 soccer draw with Lebanon and hoped the team would continue to do well in their upcoming match against Libya Thursday.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes

Schedule of events of Jordanian competitors at the 8th Pan-Arab Games for Tuesday July 15, 1997

• Weightlifting	Ayed Khuwaldeh
• Basketball	Jordan-Egypt (women's match)
• Boxing	Preliminary round
• Athletics	Ala' Abdul Hadi (high jump) Mohammad Abdul Baqi (triple jump) Mohammad Shaman (200 metres semifinal)

letes will be competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

Drug testing was introduced for the first time since the Arab Games were launched in 1953, in line with international rules. All gold medalists are being tested for performance-enhancing drugs, as is one other competitor selected in a draw in each event.

Lebanon is hosting the Arab world's premier sports event for the first time since the second Arab Games in 1957.

Jordanian sports officials have underlined

the importance of taking part in the event which has only been held seven times since 1953.

But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brotherhood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of angering Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, highlighting once again the influence of politics over sports.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze).

The Kingdom's first and only gold medal in a team sport came in Morocco in 1985 when Jordan won the basketball event after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final.

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

## Brochard wins 9th stage of Tour de France

LOUDEVILLE, France. (AFP) — French climbing specialist Laurent Brochard won the ninth stage of the Tour de France as the field placings were shaken up dramatically, but it was German Jan Ullrich who looked the smoothest cyclist in the peloton.

Though Frenchman Cedric Vasseur retained the overall leader's Yellow jersey, Ullrich, runner-up last year, looked calm and assured as he finished fourth in the stage and just 13 seconds behind overall.

The 23-year-old Ullrich, one of the last graduates from the East German Academy, was only stopped from inflicting more inroads into Vasseur's lead by loyalty to his team leader Bjarne Riis, last year's winner, who was suffering on the final climb.

Monday's 182km opening stage in the foggy Pyrenees in south western France allowed the climbers to take centre stage.

The 29-year-old Brochard, leader in the king of the mountains category, led with 15km left after overhauling teammate Pascal Hervé — who had broken away on about 70km.

Then Ullrich, Marco Pantani, who won the Alpe d'Huez stage two years ago, and Brochard's team leader Richard Virenque, three-times winner of the king of the mountains, shot past Brochard on the final climb.

"I suffered a bout of cramp on the final few hundred metres from the summit and all I aimed to do was try and make up the gap on the three leaders on the descent," Brochard said. Urged on by Virenque, Brochard then overtook the leading three on the descent to Loudenvielle and this time held on to his advantage to win the stage.

"I told Laurent to attack when he rejoined us on the descent. It's a great day for the team," Virenque said.

"I am amazed how the field split apart today as it's only the first day in the mountains and I have gained time on people who I would have thought would have been up there with me."

## Basketball event gets underway

### Kawar might join Kingdom's women's team against Egypt today

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE MEN'S BASKETBALL competition got underway at the Arab Games Monday with hosts Lebanon meeting Qatar, and Saudi Arabia taking on Morocco.

After slight rescheduling of the matches at Antranig Stadium Jordan's first match against Libya was forwarded from Tuesday to 10:00 p.m. Monday evening but the result was unavailable by press time.

Jordan is in Group 1 with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Morocco. Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. The top two teams in each group will contest the semifinal round starting July 23.

Jordan's team officials at the Games twice protested at the men's basketball draw since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, the objection was not accepted by Lebanese officials who said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw it would not be accepted now.

While the basketball federation had threatened to pull out of both the men's and women's events if the draw was not repeated, the head of the Kingdom's delegation to the Games Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not withdraw from any event since that is no longer the affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team clinched the gold medal in the 1985 Games in Morocco.

They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

While team members are optimistic about their chances of advanced standing and winning a medal for Jordan, tough competition lies ahead and the team will have to put up a big effort and keep key players in the games taking into account the relatively inexperienced lineup representing the Kingdom.

Jordan's men's team will have to finish first or second in their group to qualify for the second round. The team is trained by a new Ukrainian coach and the players form was inconsistent when they won only one out of three friendly matches against Syria two weeks ago.

With big names like Hilal Barakat, Yousef Zaghloul, Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Ma'touq missing from the lineup the team includes Fadi Saqqa, Yousef Abu Bakr, Husam Lutfi, Ma'an Odeh, Naser Alawneh, Faisal Nsour, and Mahmoud Sha'ban who were boosted by the arrival from the U.S. of Zeid Alkhas, a key player who has just returned from Korea after taking an impressive performance in the Asian All-Star game to which he was chosen during the 1995 Asian Championships.

### Jordan, Egypt play tonight in women's event

As women's basketball starts tonight grouping only five teams — Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan — reports from Beirut said Nada Kawar, an avid player who has won the discus gold and shot put silver medals, might join the basketball team matches if her coach gives her the go ahead.

Officials said Kawar who resides in the U.S. and is preparing to take part in the Athletics World Championship in Athens next month was

awaiting word from her U.S. coach to join the basketball team where one of the players will be dropped and Kawar's name registered.

Syria will face hosts Lebanon in the opening match Tuesday when the Kingdom's team plays Egypt at 8:00 p.m.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Jumana Salti, who was chosen as one of the Asian Championships' top players in 1995 will lead the women's basketball team who were also unimpressive in matches against Syria losing three of their friendly matches.

The team was, however, given the go-ahead to take part in the Games by the Minister of Youth and Sports who prompted the JOC to include them to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championship.

### Jordan's basketball schedule

Mon. 14/7	Libya-Jordan (men)
Tue. 15/7	Jordan-Egypt (women)
Wed. 16/7	Jordan-Saudi Arabia (men)
Thurs. 17/7	Syria-Jordan (women)
Fri. 18/7	Jordan-Morocco (men)
Sat. 19/7	Jordan-Tunisia (women)
Sun. 20/7	Lebanon-Jordan (women)
	Jordan-Syria (men)
Wed. 23/7	5th & 6th places (men)
	7th & 8th places
Thurs. 24/7	semifinal round
Fri. 25/7	3rd & 4th places
Sat. 26/7	final match

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## Arafat to investigate Russian Orthodox monastery dispute

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has promised the White Russian Orthodox church he will investigate the expulsion of their monks and nuns from a West Bank monastery, officials said Monday.

Abraham Qandalaft, Mr. Arafat's adviser for Christian affairs, told AFP the Palestinian leader had received a delegation from the U.S.-based church led by Father Victor Potapov over the weekend.

He said Father Potapov, rector of the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Washington, had demanded the return of Abraham's Oak monastery in Hebron.

Palestinian police evicted the occupants of the

monastery in a raid 10 days ago and handed the building over to the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox church.

The "White" and "Red" factions of the church have been in conflict since the 1917 communist revolution in Russia, and for many years the Moscow patriarchate has been demanding the return of all its property in the Holy Land.

"President Arafat has promised the rights of everyone will be respected and that he will take personal charge of the issue," said Mr. Qandalaft.

He said the U.S.-based church claimed it owned the monastery and that its monks and nuns had lived there since 1917, but that the Moscow-based patriarchate has the actual deeds to the property.

According to Qandalaft, Mr. Arafat denied during the meeting that Palestinian police had used force to expel the church officials from the monastery — the only Christian building in Hebron.

Several nuns and monks living in the monastery claimed they were beaten and mistreated by Palestinian police during the raid on July 5.

When Moscow Patriarch Alexei II visited Abraham's Oak last month he was refused entry. But Father Potapov told the Jerusalem Post newspaper the action had not been approved by his church's headquarters in New York.

Earlier this week members of the U.S.-based church said Mr. Arafat's wife Suha, a Christian, had taken up their case.

## Western media team assails journalist beatings in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A Western media delegation Monday called on the Turkish government to end police brutality aimed at journalists.

"Police and security forces should be controlled and penalised for beatings," Terry Anderson, vice-chairman of the New York-based committee to protect journalists, told Deputy Premier Bulent Ecevit.

"Journalists are beaten and even killed by security forces. These are unacceptable practices in a democratic country," added Mr. Anderson, a former Associated Press bureau chief who was held hostage for nearly seven years by Islamists in Lebanon.

Police beat 156 journalists covering news events in the past year, according to a Turkish press report. A

reporter, Metin Goktepe, died in police custody last year.

Mr. Ecevit, a former journalist who served a jail term for his writings under a military regime in the early 1980s, promised to stop police violence against journalists.

"We shall certainly prevent every kind of torture and physical pressure on journalists," Mr. Ecevit said.

Mr. Ecevit also reaffirmed his government's commitment to complete legal amendments by the end of the month to allow the release of some two dozen imprisoned journalists, out of 89 in jail.

The government argues that some journalists are not only jailed for their writings but for their involvement in terrorist activities.

Turkish laws give officials

wide latitude to declare writings and speeches terrorist propaganda. Most of the jailed journalists were charged with crimes related to a terror campaign by Kurdish separatists.

Mr. Anderson also suggested that the authorities interpret such laws more loosely.

"We're not asking special privileges for journalists. The law is the law, but surely there is room in the interpretation for judgement," Mr. Anderson said.

Correspondent Peter Arnett of CNN, International Press Institute's Director Johann Fritz and Robert Menard, general secretary of Reporters Sans Frontières, are part of the delegation, which is being led by Mr. Anderson.

## Amid change in Iran, dissident thinker gets acclaim and threats

TEHRAN (AP) — The last time Abdul Karim Soroush lectured at Tehran University, thousands turned out to hear him.

But in the exuberant crowd was a rowdy group of pro-government toughs carrying a noose. Their idea: lynch the gentle, bespectacled professor on the spot. He barely got away.

Such is the reaction to the ideas of Mr. Soroush, Iran's leading dissident thinker, who is asking the dangerous questions that the Islamic republic's mullahs would prefer not to hear.

His thoughts have made him one of Iran's most beloved and reviled figures — and his precarious survival is a symbol of the fragile political freedom in today's Iran.

Prominent in Iran since the 1979 revolution that toppled the monarchy, Mr. Soroush disputes what the clergy consider their God-given right to be the sole interpreters of Islam, a role they use to justify their rule.

In large part, Mr. Soroush's ideas are part of a growing protest of the clerics' hardline rule. One face of that protest showed up in the May presidential election in which a moderate reformer, Mohammad Khatami, routed the establishment's candidate.

Mr. Soroush is another face, the intellectual side.

His supporters see him as the architect of an Islamic renaissance. But he poses a serious threat to a religious establishment struggling to justify itself to the majority of Iran's 60 million people who have been born since the Shah's ouster.

Within the clergy's ranks, no one can match the charisma of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late religious leader who led the Islamic revolution then held its disparate and often competing elements

together through its turbulent first 10 years.

That leadership void provides an opening for the radical ideas of Mr. Soroush.

Once an ideologue of the new Islamic establishment in the early 1980s, Mr. Soroush now insists religion should teach submission to God and cannot be reduced to a mundane ideology to govern — a message almost the reverse of the ideas he once preached.

"Islam, or any religion, will become totalitarian if it is made into an ideology, because that is the nature of ideologies," Mr. Soroush, 52, said in an interview.

Like other Muslims, Mr. Soroush considers the Koran, Islam's holy book, to be God's word. But he also believes the clergy's interpretation of it has little to do with religion and more to do with preserving their power and interests.

"The clergy earns its living from religion. If your interests are secured through religion, then you will defend your interests first and religion will become secondary," Mr. Soroush said.

His writings, which say every believer is entitled to his own understanding of Islam, are widely read by Iran's university students, intellectuals and even members of the clergy. Many of his 20 or so books are best-sellers, and his numerous articles have an audience in other parts of the Muslim World.

"The young see Soroush as someone who offers something different from the traditional teachings of religious leaders or teachers," said Mohammad Hashemi, a law professor at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran.

Mr. Soroush, who studied chemistry in Britain and pharmacology and religion in Iran, bases his elaborate arguments on intellectual

influences ranging from the medieval to the modern.

The 13th century Persian mystic Jalaluddin Rumi is one. Like the iconoclastic Rumi, Mr. Soroush speaks of a lofty, liberating Islam that would hardly be recognised by most Muslim clerics.

Some people describe Mr. Soroush as a Muslim Martin Luther King whose ideas could generate an Islamic reformation. They believe he offers an alternative to what they see as pedestrian debates over whether neckties or satellite dishes are permissible under Islam.

They also are inspired by his belief that Islam is compatible with democracy and human rights — concepts sometimes disparaged by conservative Muslim clergy as foreign.

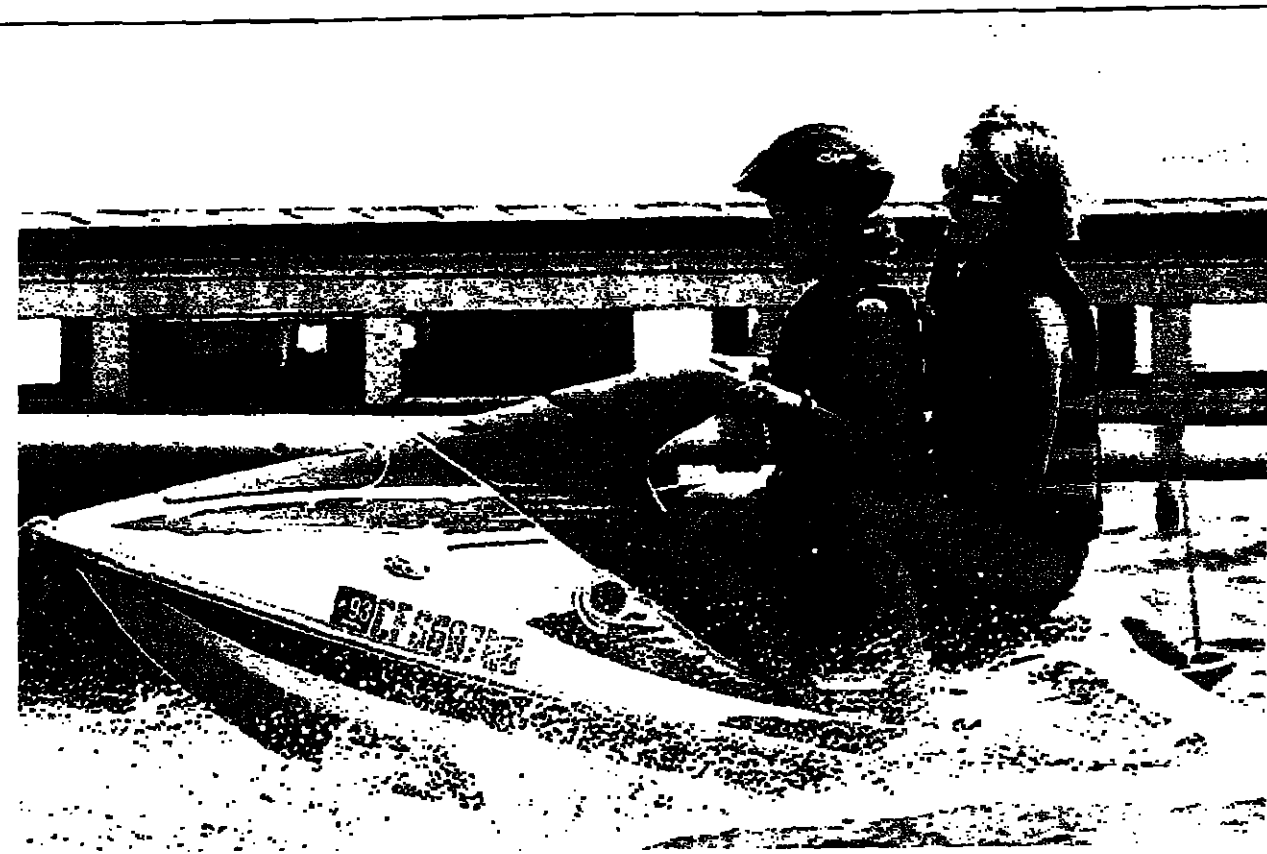
Those ideas have landed him in trouble. His lectures used to draw thousands, but he stopped speaking for a while after he was beaten twice by pro-government militants last year. He says he narrowly escaped with his life when the lynch mob turned up at the Tehran University lecture a year ago.

Militants have also attacked the office of the monthly magazine Kiyan, which first published Mr. Soroush's ideas.

"The people punch individuals who say such things in the mouth," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, warned in an angry speech following the publication of one article.

Mr. Soroush recently returned after 11 months in Europe and the U.S., where he went to let things cool off at home. He has spoken just once since then, when he gave a lecture in June that drew 3,000 people.

"When I have an idea, I'm like a pregnant woman. I just have to deliver," Mr. Soroush said with a grin.



ROYALTY WITH A SPLASH: Britain's Princess Diana is taken for a jet-ski ride by an unidentified young girl Monday at the property of her friend Sheikh Al-Fayed in Saint-Tropez, French Riviera. Diana has been spending a few days on the Mediterranean coast with her sons (AFP photo)

## Spaniards mourn slain politician

ERMUA (R) — Spain came to a virtual standstill Monday as the nation paid its last respects to a young politician kidnapped and brutally murdered by Basque separatist guerrillas.

While the funeral of 29-year-old Miguel Angel Blanco was broadcast live on national television, millions stopped work at noon to observe 10 minutes of silence, crowds stood motionless on city sidewalks and traffic came to a halt.

In Blanco's home town of Ermua, where he was a popular town councillor, thousands lined the streets outside the crowded chapel where Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and Crown Prince Felipe joined grieving family members and friends.

Crowds, held back by red-jacketed Basque police, chanted "Miguel, Miguel, Miguel" and "Murderers" as his casket was carried through the cobblestone

streets of the small Basque town on the way to the cemetery.

Blanco's kidnapping and killing has sparked an angry outcry against ETA, which has waged a violent 29-year struggle for an independent homeland, and demonstrators have taken to the streets in unprecedented numbers to express their outrage.

"With the barbarous assassination of Miguel Angel, terrorism has shown its face cold and filled with cruelty," Bishop Ricardo Blazquez told mourners at Blanco's funeral. "There is no justification for the murder of an innocent."

Blanco, a low-ranking member of Spain's ruling party, was kidnapped last Thursday by ETA guerrillas, who threatened to execute him in 48 hours if the government did not meet their demands.

He was found Saturday dumped on a mountain road

side outside the Basque city of San Sebastian, his hands tied behind his back and two bullets lodged in his brain. He slipped into a coma and died before dawn Sunday.

In a nationally televised address, Mr. Aznar vowed earlier Monday to intensify the fight against ETA, pledging "we will put a stop to terrorism." "Without a doubt, we're going to win," he said.

But Mr. Aznar warned his countrymen to brace for "painful days" ahead. "Those who only know how to kill, those who only know how to kidnap, will continue doing it," he said.

While Blanco's killing has sparked a furious backlash against ETA, a group of rebel supporters struck back early Monday in northern city of Pamplona.

About 50 youths wearing ski masks, attacked the doors of city hall, throwing rocks and bottles, officials said. Police intervened. At least

one person was injured.

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out in more than a dozen Spanish cities overnight to demonstrate against ETA, with the largest protests in Madrid and the Basque cities of Bilbao, Vitoria and San Sebastian. Pope John Paul and other world leaders condemned the killing.

Reflecting a sense of national outrage at ETA's targeting of an ordinary citizen, Mr. Aznar promised that the government would work "without rest, fighting implacably and with the law in its hand ... against these assassins."

Mr. Aznar also lashed out angrily at ETA's political arm, Herri Batasuna, calling them "accomplices" to the murder and asking Spaniards to isolate them. Herri Batasuna hold seats in the Basque and Navarre regional parliaments and the National Congress.

### Albright drives bargain with Russian hat vendor

TSARSKOYE SELO (R) — After failing to make a breakthrough in arms control negotiations with the Russians, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had more success bargaining to buy a fur hat from a street vendor. She succeeded in getting a modest discount after asking the trader whether his asking price was "the best you can do." Albright called a shopping break after spotting a row of stalls near the Catherine palace, a residence of the Romanov Tsars near St. Petersburg which she was touring at the end of a 19-hour visit to Russia.

### U.S. navy officer arrested after restaurant brawl

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The U.S. navy warship Anzio left Stockholm Sunday after a port call without one of its officers, under arrest for brawling in a restaurant, police said. The unnamed officer was arrested Thursday after arriving drunk in the city centre restaurant, quarrelling with customers then hitting the proprietor twice in the face, police said, quoting witnesses. When police arrived the officer "defended himself violently," a spokesman said. Put in provisional custody, he was charged Saturday with violent behaviour, criminal damage and resisting the authorities. He will be tried in due course and faces a fine or up to a month's imprisonment.

### Get out and exercise, conference tells obese

LONDON (R) — People have got to get out and exercise to stop an epidemic of obesity, experts will tell a conference in London this week. People are eating less, but still getting fat. That means exercise must be the key, Ken Fox of Essex University said ahead of Tuesday's conference. "We know from national surveys that food and fat intake have remained the same or declined at a time when we have seen vast increases in the incidence of obesity," Dr. Fox said. "On the other hand our lifestyles have changed dramatically and inactivity is a root cause of our weight increase." Latest figures show that more than half of all Britons were overweight, with 18 per cent of women and 15 per cent of men clinically obese.

### Curtain to fall on opera at London's Covent garden

LONDON (R) — The curtain falls on London's Covent Garden Opera House on Monday for a controversial 2-1/2 year redevelopment designed to transform the creaking 19th century theatre into an arena fit for the 21st century. For behind the red plush, the chandeliers and the sumptuous opera and ballet productions, the Royal Opera House is literally falling apart, its technical facilities and backstage area a relic of the horse-drawn era in which it was born.

### British publisher offers Clinton coat of arms

LONDON (R) — An aristocratic British publisher unveiled the coat of arms it proposes for President Bill Clinton, saying he was the only head of a major country not to have some such "device of heraldry." Burke's peerage said it hoped to present the coat of arms to Clinton, either on velvet (calf skin) or parchment, "at a future date." Its design, which it is offering to amend at Clinton's behest, incorporates a range of symbols of the president's family and of the United States. His wife Hillary is represented by the red line of St. Hilary of Poitiers, France, and his daughter Chelsea by the anchor mark of the British China of that name.

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## Lebanese hurt in

THE (AFP) — Two Lebanese fighters were killed when Hizbollah fighters clashed with the Israeli-occupied Lebanese security forces in the northern town of Tyre, a source said. A rocket also hit northern Tyre, but caused no casualties, an Israeli army spokesman said. The source said the fighters had been fired in two separate incidents. The source said the fighters had been fired in two separate incidents. The source said the fighters had been fired in two separate incidents.

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## Govern

By Francesca C...

GOVERN — The government on Monday went ahead with parliament elections, regardless of whether there was a general boycott, but said it was a general boycott. The government on Monday went ahead with parliament elections, regardless of whether there was a general boycott, but said it was a general boycott. The government on Monday went ahead with parliament elections, regardless of whether there was a general boycott, but said it was a general boycott.

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## Prince Hassan congratulates athletes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday congratulated the Jordanian team taking part in the 8th Pan Arab Games in Beirut for their good results. Prince Hassan wished them further success and better achievements.

## Israel seriously hit in Jerusalem shooting

TEL AVIV (Petra) — A 60-year-old Israeli man was seriously injured Monday night in a shooting in Jerusalem by an armed assailant who shot him in the neck. The victim was taken to a hospital where he was in a critical condition. Police are investigating the attack and are looking for the assailant.

## Egypt seizes massive haul of smuggled gold

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities seized a massive haul of smuggled gold in the Sinai Peninsula on Monday. The haul, which was worth millions of dollars, was found in a hidden location. The authorities are investigating the smuggling operation and are looking for the people involved.

## British publisher offers Clinton coat of arms

LONDON (R) — An aristocratic British publisher unveiled the coat of arms it proposes for President Bill Clinton, saying he was the only head of a major country not to have some such "device of heraldry." Burke's peerage said it hoped to present the coat of arms to Clinton, either on velvet (calf skin) or parchment, "at a future date." Its design, which it is offering to amend at Clinton's behest, incorporates a range of symbols of the president's family and of the United States. His wife Hillary is represented by the red line of St. Hilary of Poitiers, France, and his daughter Chelsea by the anchor mark of the British China of that name.

## Algeria

PARIS (R) — day freedom Front (F) Madani termed as one unlikelihood in country. The mission office in Madani to 12 years in 1992, was a "renewal" of terms of relations with the situation and senior diplomat. "But it stop the bomb in